









## Cuts force lab for rare blood tests to close

By Annabel Ferryman, Health Services Correspondent

A research laboratory with an international reputation, which has developed complicated techniques for diagnosing blood disorders, is faced with closure because of government cuts.

The laboratory, which is part of Westminster Hospital Medical School, London, is run by Professor David Matthews, who has been asked to retire early, and by Dr John Linnell, who is being made redundant. It is due to close on March 31 to save about £40,000 a year.

Professor Matthews says it is the only centre in the world which possesses the technique of separating and measuring different forms of vitamin B12 in the blood.

A low level of vitamin B12, which leads to pernicious anaemia, is easy to establish by simple blood tests, but the tests carried out at the Westminster establish the exact levels of different forms of vitamin B12.

Professor Matthews believes that the lack of certain types of the vitamin often goes undiagnosed and that babies might be dying of such disorders without the cause being known.

In mild cases the disorder results in mild mental handicap, but in severe cases it can lead to serious anaemia, crippling, and death.

Professor Matthews, whose laboratory analyses 400 samples from Britain, Europe and the United States said yesterday that homes for the severely handicapped might be full of children suffering from the disorder.

"Unless I can continue my work, we will never know. My questions might be answered in ten to twenty years hence," he said.

The technique for analysing the presence of different types of vitamin B12 was pioneered 16 years ago by Professor Matthews, while the laboratory also carries out work on how the body absorbs proteins.

Dr Peter Emerson, dean of the Westminster Hospital Medical School, said yesterday that Professor Matthews' department was a casualty of government cuts because it did not provide teaching for medical students and provided few services for the hospital.

The school's grant from the university of £1.3m had been cut by £200,000 this year. In times of financial difficulty, teaching and services to patients had to come before research. In addition, Professor Matthews' research had implications only for rare disorders, Dr Emerson said.

## Judge praises SPG for 'manly restraint' at riot

By Nicholas Timmins

A judge praised members of the Special Patrol Group yesterday for their bravery, devotion to duty, and "manly restraint" in causing relatively minor injuries to young black arrested during the Brixton riots last year, in a struggle that the defendant had described as a matter of life and death.

Judge Lord Dunboynne, passing sentence at the Inner London Crown Court, also criticised the way the defence had been conducted, and provided guidance for the jury. He said that the defendant, who is joint chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers.

Mr Kadri and the judge had repeatedly clashed during the three-day trial, and at one point the judge, in the jury's absence, formally cautioned Mr Kadri.

Yesterday the judge said there had been only two issues in the case. The defence, however, had been conducted in such a way that the trial had become a matter of life and death, at least twice as long as necessary or desirable in the interests of justice to any one.

Anthony Amos, aged 20, of Roupell Estate, Brixton, was acquitted on Friday of assault but convicted of a 10-2 majority verdict of possessing an offensive weapon, a brick.

During his arrest he bit an SPG officer's finger to the bone. Mr Amos claimed that he was acting in self defence, that he had been pinned to the ground with a hand on his neck so that he was suffocating, and had been kicked by five or six officers.

Medical evidence has shown a bruise on Amos' left shoulder and right foot and facial cuts. He had been certified fit to be detained. Mr Kadri, in Amos' defence had accused the Special Patrol Group of being the SAS of the police and of seeking revenge on black youths in Brixton. "You were called into the riot areas to snatch any black youngster and inflict as much punishment as possible on them," he said.

Yesterday Judge Lord Dunboynne sentenced Amos to three months in a detention centre for possessing an offensive weapon. It was, the judge said, "a criminally anti-social act in the circumstances". He said the police had a duty to restore the Queen's Peace. "You should have been doing what you could to help the police instead of lobbing bricks."

He formally commended the SPG unit, "for the discipline, the bravery, the devotion to duty and, I may add, the manly restraint displayed by each of them as they sought to control the riotous and violent behaviour of the accused and the officers in uniform, which the accused himself described as a matter of life and death."

## TV LINK TO FIRE ATTACKERS

By Kenneth Gosling

A fire-eating scene from an Italian film shown on BBC television may have been copied by a group of youths who attacked a boy in Liverpool at the weekend.

The theory is being investigated by Merseyside police who are searching for the attackers of Donald Curlett, aged 15, of Alfonso Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool. One of three youths is said to have spat petrol into his face while a second threw a lit match at him.

The boy fell to the ground with his face and hair burning. He managed to smother the flames with his hands and was treated in hospital. Merseyside police said yesterday they were treating the attack as a serious assault.

The police said they understood a similar attack was shown on a film review programme. The only recent film depicting anything at all similar was the *Film International* presentation on BBC 2 on January 23 of *Salto nel Vuoto* (Leap into the Void).

In it, one of the performers takes a mouthful of paraffin, spits it out and lights it while someone says, "Be very careful, you can get burnt like that."

A BBC official said yesterday that she doubted whether the gang involved would have been watching the film, which was presented with English subtitles. It was described as "fairly heavy going". They could equally well have got the idea for the attack from seeing fire-eaters on other programmes or in circuses, she said.

The boy told the police that at first he thought water was being spat at him. "But the next thing I knew flames were coming from my face. I burnt my hands putting the flames out. When I touched my face bits of skin started falling off."

The police are looking for three youths aged about 15.

## VAT MAN WINS AGE RULING

An age limit in the Civil Service careers system worked unfairly against an immigrant barrister's hopes of advancement, the Employment Appeal Tribunal ruled yesterday.

The age limit applied to prospective administrative trainees was attacked by Mr K. W. Dayananda Perera of the customs and excise as unintentional racial discrimination.

Mr Perera, aged 41, of Montrose Avenue, Edgware, London, said the upper limit of 32 infringed the Race Relations Act, 1976.

He argued that most coloured immigrants entered Britain as adults. Therefore fewer coloured civil servants than whites reached the administrative trainee stage before the age of 32.

Mr Perera, who came to Britain in 1973 from Sri Lanka, pointed out that in the Southall value-added tax office where he worked there were 22 white executive officers under 32, but none of the 13 coloured people was under 32. Therefore none of the coloured people could apply for the administrative training course.

Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, presiding, said the statistical evidence presented by the Civil Service Commission supported Mr Perera's evidence.

"The fact that a substantial number of coloureds are adult immigrants suggests that the statistical evidence, such as it is, probably gives a correct picture," the judge said.

The tribunal held that Mr Perera had proved indirect discrimination over his application to become an administrative trainee, and was entitled to compensation, to be assessed later.

But the court ruled against his complaints of racial discrimination over other unsuccessful attempts for promotion. In one of those he was assessed as unsuitable and "never to be seen again."

## Wounded PC's wife says he will go back

The wife of Police Constable Ian Bennett said yesterday that she was against his returning to his beat as a community policeman in the St Paul's area of Bristol where he was injured in a gang attack at the weekend, although she was sure he would want to go back as soon as possible.

Mrs Caroline Bennett, aged 38, was speaking after visiting her husband in Bristol Royal Infirmary, where he is being treated for eye and jaw injuries, a fractured skull and a broken nose. She described the injuries as horrific.

A surgeon had told her yesterday that he thought her husband's sight would be saved. The police believe PC Bennett, 36, a father of two, was hit on the head by a flying bottle when a mob attacked him and Police Constable Nigel Strachan.

Mrs Bennett is convinced that her husband will go straight back to St Paul's where he has served for 11 years. "I feel absolutely terrible about him wanting to go back, but I know that is all he wants to do."

She added: "All I can pray for is that if this had been the case, perhaps that will be the end to it. I would like him to have a less dangerous job. But I am afraid I know that is all he wants to do. He loves the area, the job, and the large majority of people who live there."

PC Bennett was one of the first constables to return to foot patrol after the St Paul's riots in April, 1980, which caused damage estimated at £1m. Senior Avon and Somerset police officers described him as an extremely popular officer, who had worked exceptionally hard to involve himself in the community.

When he was hit by the bottle on Saturday night, PC Bennett lay on the ground for two or three minutes before being rescued by police reinforcements with protective gear and riot shields. It will be some days before surgeons are certain that his badly bruised right eye can be saved.

## Help for children

The British National Oil Corporation is to sponsor, at the cost of £8,500, an extra inspector to work in Glasgow for the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Mr Delwyn Williams, Conservative MP for Montgomery and a solicitor, was alleged at Birmingham High Court yesterday to have adopted a cavalier approach to the case of a client. It was claimed that he failed adequately to carry out his duties and on two occasions acted contrary to them.

Mr Colin Biffen, aged 48, of Tamworth Mill, Aston on Clun, Shropshire, is claiming damages from Mr Williams, who at the time of a transaction between them in 1975 was practising in Welshpool. Mr Biffen alleged that Mr Williams was negligent while acting in the purchase of a plot of land and the building of a house in the village of Edgton, near Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Mr David Foskett, for Mr Biffen, said: "Behind this litigation lie two disputes over the purchase of land, and one building dispute." Mr Biffen was involved in two of the disputes.

Mr Foskett said it was alleged that as a result of Mr Williams' failure to carry out his client's instructions, and on two occasions his acting contrary to them, Mr Biffen's position in one case was destroyed and in another seriously undermined.

Mr Biffen had been caused serious financial loss and there has been distress and anxiety for himself and his family over several years. Mr Foskett said that Mr Williams had adopted a cavalier approach to the case.

Mr Biffen had decided early in 1975 to buy a plot of land in Edgton and build a house. But difficulties arose over the title of the land and by the middle of 1975 Mr Biffen had decided to terminate the contracts to buy the land and to build a house. Mr Williams, however, proceeded to take a different course and building work started.

Mr Biffen said that he and his wife wanted to withdraw from the transaction, but were put under pressure by the builder and Mr Williams to allow the former to go on site. By September, 1975, he had paid £3,446 and later another £4,000 was demanded.

He told Mr Williams the claim ought to be defended.

## Solicitor MP in negligence suit

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

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Mr Wood now and after the attack

## Youths are sentenced for torture of old man

A veteran of two world wars showed astonishing bravery and generosity after he was tortured by two teenagers in Plymouth Crown Court heard yesterday.

Mr Fred Wood, aged 82, insisted on the last word said two masked youths posing as carol singers, broke into his home in Plymouth. The teenagers gagged the former naval rating, almost causing him to choke on his false teeth. He was beaten and slashed repeatedly across the face with a sheath knife. Mr Richard Rains, for the prosecution, told the court. But as the youths said they were leaving, Mr Wood, a defendant, said: "Well go on then."

Mr Wood's ordeal was heavily publicized a fortnight before Christmas and he was recovered from his injuries, did not attend the hearing. At his home he said: "I just want to forget all about it."

tributed food parcels and other gifts to pensioners near his home in Lakeside Drive, Ernesettle.

Mr Rains said: "He behaved with very great courage and very great generosity to others in greater need than himself." Photographs of Mr Wood's injuries were produced in court when Martin Temme, aged 17, unemployed, who lives next door but one to the pensioner and Michael Gennart, aged 16, a storeboy, of Hornchurch Road, Ernesettle, pleaded guilty to robbing him of £13.60 and a wristwatch worth £10.

Temme was jailed for three years and Gennart was ordered to be detained for a period of up to three years.

Mr Wood, who has recovered from his injuries, did not attend the hearing. At his home he said: "I just want to forget all about it."

## GAMBLING LED BOY TO KILL AUNT

Sarah Simpson, aged 78, who was blind, was murdered by a teenage relative because of his fatal fascination for gaming machines and space invaders, Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, was told yesterday.

Mark Cogle, 18, battered and stabbed his great-aunt to death for the sake of £20. He had spent his wages on electronic games at an amusement arcade and needed cash to pay board to his parents, the court heard.

He was ordered to be detained at the Queen's pleasure after admitting murdering Miss Simpson at her home in Vicarage Road, Silloth, Tyne and Wear, in May.

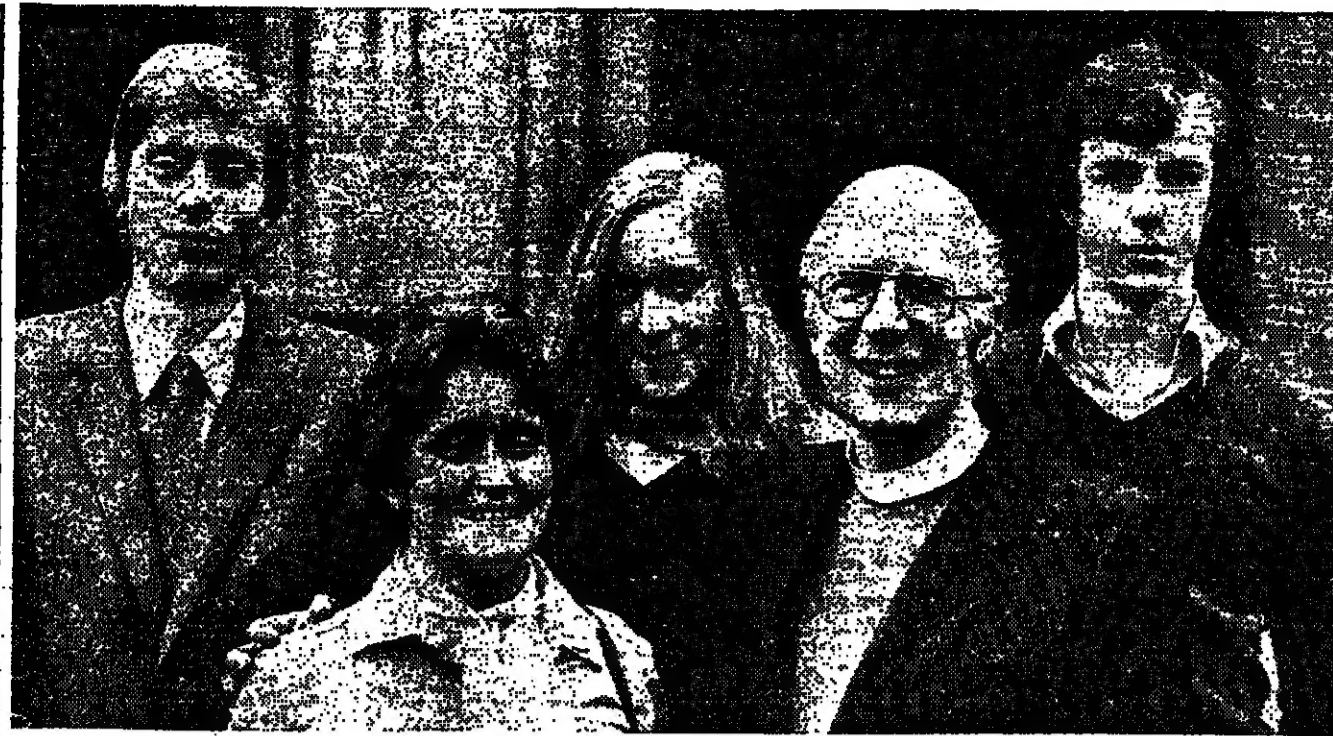
Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for the prosecution, said: "This is a horrifying case in which a young man attacked his great-aunt, battered her unconscious with a poker, used a knife to stab her to death through the heart, and then cut her throat."

He said Miss Simpson's skull was fractured by five blows from the poker, which broke in two. She died from one of five stab wounds through the heart and suffered another eight in the chest.

Cogle, aged 18, a trainee chef, gambled away the £23.50 wages he received from a Youth Opportunities Programme soon after being paid, the court was told.

The teenager was said to have told the police: "I went to an arcade and spent all my money playing the machines. I was thinking of some way to get money and I thought of my Aunt Sally."

After the killing Cogle, of Bideale Road, Seaton Carew, Cleveland, ransacked the house for the £20 he needed, and ran off.



Prebendary Michael Baughan, the next Bishop of Chester, outside Church House, London yesterday with his wife, Myrtle, and children, from left, Andrew, Rachel and Philip (Diary, page 10.)

## Court claim by ousted union man

From Our Correspondent Manchester

A man involved in an eight-year battle with his union yesterday claimed he had been harassed by senior police officers.

Mr John Stevenson, aged 56, of Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, Manchester, is asking for a High Court declaration in Manchester that his second dismissal as an area official of the union was contrary to natural justice.

He also claims damages from the Manchester-based United Transport Union in a contested case.

Mr Stevenson, who is conducting his own case, said that in 1977 the Court of Appeal upheld a Chancery Court decision that he should get his job back.

"Afterwards I was constantly harassed by senior police officers in this city," he said. "I asked for protection during this trial and afterwards, I ask that none of my witnesses be arrested or taken in for examination during this trial. They may be in some peril."

Mr Stevenson said he had been convicted of misusing a union credit card to obtain petrol, and as a car insurance offence, which he had denied, and was conditionally discharged.

The hearing continues today.

## Wanted: 180 health volunteers Common cold drug hopes

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first successful use of interferon, the substance that occurs naturally in the body in tiny amounts and which leapt to prominence three years ago as a potential wonder drug, appears to be as a treatment for the common cold. Following laboratory tests, doctors at the Common Cold Research Unit of the Medical Research Council, in Salisbury, are seeking 180 healthy people for extended clinical trials.

Over the past 36 years the research unit has investigated many possible drugs for preventing colds; and more than 10 years ago, it did some limited studies with interferon. But it is only in the past two years that the agent has become available in any quantity. Before that, the world production was about 400 milligrams (0.014 ounces) a year, and that was extracted from about 45,000 litres of serum from blood donors.

The main source was the public health laboratory in Helsinki, where Dr Karl Cantell perfected a brilliant but elaborate method for harvesting samples from human blood. The process is intricate because an individual's blood normally contains only a few parts per million, and the substance must be purified if it is to be used as a drug extract.

Yet the limited studies on cell cultures at Salisbury a decade ago show that interferon will stop rhinovirus, a common cold microbe, from multiplying. But the mechanism by which that happens is only now becoming clear.

Recent advances in biotechnology will allow the early tests to be repeated and the manufacture of a preparation to be given to people. But it is no accident that the advances in bulk production of interferon and the understanding of how it works are happening in parallel.

Two drug firms are supplying the common cold unit with pure interferon. Hoffmann-La Roche working with Genentech, and Schering Plough have given free of charge agents made in their laboratories from genetically engineered bacteria.

The research team has already tested some as a nasal spray on a small group of volunteers and confirmed the earlier findings in the laboratory.

Many questions remain. Will this interferon protect against attacks by cold and flu viruses? What dosage is most effective, and can be tolerated? Are there side effects? Other trials, for other diseases, have shown flu-like symptoms with heavy doses.

Dr David Tyrrell, director of the Common Cold Unit, believes that interferon should make an ideal drug for colds because it is effective against so many other viruses. A "simple" cold is really a complicated infection involving many viruses, he says.

The body manufactures interferon automatically when infected by viruses. Scientists believe that by increasing the level of interferon ahead of an infection, they can increase the natural defence mechanisms.

However, the immense surge of interest in the substance has been based on a belief that it will have more profound effects than a cure for the common cold. For example, compounds made by the Wellcome Foundation are among those being tested in Britain by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's programme.

Nevertheless, early claims of dramatic remissions in the treatment of certain cancers have been replaced in the past few months with more cautious estimates of the potency of interferon as an anti-cancer agent. The extensive scientific studies in research laboratories have raised as many questions as they have provided answers about how it controls the body's defence mechanism.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Cycle chaos planned in fares fight

A mass demonstration by cyclist in central London is being planned as part of a campaign to save the Greater London Council's policy of cheap public transport fares.

The campaign, organised through local groups and community centres around London, was launched yesterday. The organisers hope that the "bike-in" by commuters will cause traffic chaos, to emphasize the need for the GLC's fares scheme, declared illegal by the Law Lords, to continue.

Other plans for the new campaign, bringing together passengers and London Transport workers, include picketing, the distribution of leaflets, posters and stickers. The Fare Fight Campaign was launched in London in the presence of Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, and Mr Martin Stevens, Conservative MP for Hammersmith, Fulham.

The organizers said employees at one bus depot in Chalk Farm, north London, had decided not to collect the increased fares which come into effect on March 21, but to maintain them at present levels.

### Youth cut brake cables of car

A youth cut the brake cables of a woman's car and watched as it careered down the ramp of a car park, stopping just short of crossing traffic, Glasgow Sheriff Court was told yesterday.

Then George Cummings, aged 18, of Maxwell Drive, Pollokshaws, Glasgow, who had cut through the brake pipe, offered to repair the car. He was remanded in custody for reports after admitting cutting the cable and attempting to defraud the woman of £5 for the repair.

### Heathrow staff threaten strike

British Airways ramp staff at Heathrow airport, London, were threatening an indefinite strike today if any of the workforce were suspended for failing to implement a new roster and adopt flexible working arrangements.

The 2,600 transport union ramp workers in Heathrow's Terminal One and Two, which include baggage loaders, drivers, aircraft cleaners and catering and cargo staff, say the new conditions would mean longer hours and loss of overtime pay.

### £40,000 school fire

Obscene anti-Roman Catholic slogans were daubed on the walls of St Edward's Roman Catholic Middle School in Aylesbury, on Sunday night, by arsonists who caused more than £40,000 damage.

### Two nurses slashed

Two auxiliary nurses were attacked with a razor by one of three men who broke into a Bournemouth nursing home yesterday. Miss Karen Storey and Penelope Cole were treated for cuts in hospital.

## No comment from Army on bullying claim on TV

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Army yesterday declined to comment on television programme about bullying in the ranks because it had not been allowed to see it in advance.

It was claimed on the programme, which was put together by Granada's *World in Action* team, that scores of cases of ill treatment of soldier "misfits" during the past four years had been examined.

One black said that he was burnt on the back with a red-hot iron. Another soldier, who did not appear, was said to have been tied to the front of an Army lorry and beaten with a sledgehammer.

Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was invited to appear, but he refused because Granada wanted to do a 20-minute interview without telling him the questions as they have provided answers about how it controls the body's defence mechanism.

The programme comes two years after Private James Darkey, aged 18, killed himself after severe bullying by other soldiers. Questions were asked in Parliament after his death.

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## Convention on ship salvage to be revised

### COMMONS

The preliminary inquiry into the Pease lifeboat disaster is expected to be completed by the end of this month. Mr. Ian Spratt, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said at question time in the Commons.

Sir William van Stranbenze (Wokingham, C) asked what consideration the Department of Trade had given to the problems of current contract practice with regard to the salvage of stricken ships.

Mr. Spratt: I note the wide use made of the Lloyd's standard form of salvage agreement under which remuneration is determined after the salvage operation by agreement or arbitration. This minimizes the uncertainties of rapid action.

I keep under review whether there are lessons to be learned from individual incidents. The United Kingdom delegation to IMCO will play its full part in the coming revision of the 1970 Brussels convention on salvage.

Sir William van Stranbenze: I am sure that the Department of Trade has been very active in the recent and particularly tragic case involving the loss of the entire crew who went to the rescue. There is no justification for the view that delay in settling the salvage terms was one of the

causes, possibly something on the lines of mandatory provisions which would come into effect on certain basic conditions being satisfied, might be something to be considered in the revision of the convention.

Mr. Spratt: We will be willing to look at any lessons which can be learned from the inquiry currently being carried out by the RNLI and my department and the Government of the Republic of Ireland, but traditional mariners' law believes that the ship's master is the best person to be in charge of the ship in danger.

Mr. John Prescott (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab): For a successful tow of the stricken vessel adequate manning is required. Has he seen the Minister of Transport's statement from Ireland that manning levels in Ireland are the same as Britain's?

Mr. Spratt: I read the newspaper reports to which he refers and will consider that in the light of the Irish Government's report.

Mr. David Tomlinson (Dewsbury, SDP): What sort of time scale does he envisage? How soon will it be before a convention is signed?

Mr. Spratt: On the IMCO agreement, there is to be a meeting in 1984. I believe there are one or two other things that have to be settled before then.



Van Stranbenze: Delays

Costain: Special Rules

requiring a fair amount of work by IMCO, but I hope that it will be at the next diplomatic conference in 1984-85.

Sir Albert Costain (Polekton, Devon, C): This is particularly significant in areas of the English Channel and to the south-west of England where some of the highest concentrations of shipping in the world. Would it be possible to make special rules apply to ships in this narrow waterway?

Mr. Spratt: He is right about the extreme danger and difficulty and potentially dangerous nature of the English Channel. When the preliminary inquiry is completed

I will look at what he suggests in the light of what the inquiry reveals.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): On the question of the Union Star disaster and the Pease lifeboat, when does he expect the preliminary inquiry to report? Will he give an assurance that he will look at the call for a proper public inquiry to investigate the many doubts expressed so far?

Mr. Spratt: I give that assurance. I hope and expect that the preliminary inquiry will be completed by the end of this month.

## Building society practice disliked by minister

### INSURANCE

The practice of some building societies in using mortgage holders to insure their property with a particular company, which might not give best value, was wrong, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of Consumer Affairs, said.

She stated that she would strongly support the Director General of Fair Trading in any attempt to end the practice. Asked whether the review of the Building Societies Association had yet been completed, she said some of the associations were still the subject of discussion. It was a matter for the Director General of Fair Trading.

Mr. Robin Squire (Hornchurch, Lab): I have a serious point to make. I have a mortgage on my house with a particular company, and I am not sure that I am getting the best value possible.

Will the strongly support any attempt by the Director General of Fair Trading to stop this practice?

Mr. Oppenheim: Yes, it is wrong. The Director General of Fair Trading will support any attempt to stop this practice.

Following discussions last year, the Director of Fair Trading and the Building Societies Association have said

the association no longer recommends borrowers should insure their property through an agent of the building society.

The Director General has said he is satisfied that if the building societies follow the recommendation on freedom of choice of insurance companies, the situation will no longer occur. It is being carefully monitored.

Mr. Kenneth Weatch (Ipswich, Lab): Many of these restrictive practices arise from the fact that building society members are not aware of the advantages of multi-lateralism.

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## Makers to get swifter approvals

### STANDARDS

There had been a considerable improvement in the processing of specifications for approval submitted to the Quality Assurance and Standards Division of the Department of Trade, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said during questions.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for Trade to increase the recruitment to the division with the object of enabling British manufacturers submitting specifications and designs to obtain final approval within six months.

Mr. Oppenheim: The case she referred to me which took two years was not by any means a straightforward case. The record now shows there is a considerable improvement and there is no indication of the department in any way slowing down its attention.

There were 21 cases waiting examination or actually under examination for final approval between January and June 1981 and only five between July and December 1981, so already in the past year there has been a noted improvement which I hope will continue.

Mr. Oppenheim: The numbers of engineering posts in the National Weights and Measures Laboratory of the department have already been increased with the aim of reaching a decision on new designs of weighing or measuring equipment within a few months of submission.

Following a shortage of engineers which led to delays, recruiting to fill the extra posts has been pressed vigorously over the past two-and-a-half years and as a result I hope that the last post will be filled shortly. Furthermore, new examination procedures agreed with manufacturers were introduced on January 1. Among other things they will help to speed up the approval process.

Miss Boothroyd: A delay of two years before a Government department could examine a specification submitted by industry was an indictment on the

proper function of that department. Further, such delays have been having adverse effects to British manufacturing industry with losses of productivity, export markets and jobs.

She should assure the manufacturing sector that any submitted specification for approval will not have to wait longer than six months before they get an indication of their acceptance.

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Mr. Oppenheim: The case she referred to me which took two years was not by any means a straightforward case. The record now shows there is a considerable improvement and there is no indication of the department in any way slowing down its attention.

Mr. Wells: Would he list the steps he would take to ensure that the proposed BA routes would be profitable, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament?

Mr. Spratt: I intend to take few steps. The first step is to ensure that the proposed BA routes would be profitable, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): Can he give an assurance that there will be no more stripping of profitable BA routes to tempt other airlines?

Mr. Spratt: I do not intend to strip BA routes to tempt other airlines. I will ensure that the proposed BA routes would be profitable, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament.

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Mr. Clinton Davis (Hackney, Central, Lab): It is evident that it could not be in the national interest to privatize BA in the foreseeable future or at all. Why then is the Government pursuing this course?

Mr. Spratt: I disagree. It remains this Government's intention to privatize BA as soon as practicable.

Mr. Robert McCrimmon (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Is it the Government's intention to dispose of the BA subsidiaries, such as helicopter?

Mr. Spratt: I do not intend to dispose of the BA subsidiaries. I will ensure that the proposed BA routes would be profitable, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament.

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Mr. Spratt said that in 1981 the London Heathrow airport, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted, handled 39,382,030 terminal passengers and 404,741 aircraft movements. The corresponding figures for 1980 were 39,553,508 terminal passengers and 430,531 air transport movements.

Mr. Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, C): These figures, especially when taken with forecasts of future passenger scale and the introduction of

larger aircraft, cast considerable doubt on the proposition that there will be a shortfall in capacity at these airports by 1987.

Mr. Spratt: No. In six of the 12 months, traffic in 1981 was higher than in the corresponding months in 1980, indicating a return to growth. Comparisons of the total figures for the future need to look at the effect on traffic of the air traffic control strike in May and June and the bad weather in December. It would be a poor idea to base long-term forecasts on merely the experience of the last few years.

Mr. Chelton Davis (Hackney, Central, Lab): For Britain to restrict airport development at this stage would be to show disregard for the needs of the country. It is something this country ought not to contemplate.

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Britain could succeed in winning the site of the EEC trade mark office, putting forward London as the location, Mr. Reginald Byrne, Under Secretary of State for Trade, said during questions.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

It will put what has been a voluntary and piecemeal system on to a more uniform basis and standardize criteria about who receives help from the duty solicitors.

It does not make it compulsory for duty solicitor schemes to be set up in all magistrates' courts. But the Law Society said: "One object is to put pressure on the courts and police who have not liked the idea."

There are at present duty solicitor schemes in 130 magistrates' courts. They have grown up in a piecemeal fashion in the last decade and

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## Cabinet sets out to counter CND 'distortions'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government yesterday launched a new drive to counter what it regards as misleading propaganda about its defence policies by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Ministers held a briefing session at Conservative Central Office for about ninety members of the party's speaking panels from all over Britain advising them on how to reply to the arguments of the unilateralists, and to present the Government's position on arms control and multilateral disarmament.

The Government's campaign is in response to what it sees as growing public demands for quick progress on arms control agreements.

The workers, who included many prospective parliamentarians, were told by Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, of the danger when people, tempted by their own anxieties, turned to unilateralism.

"The silliest remark in this whole discussion was that a unilateralist was a multilateralist who meant it," he said. "On the contrary, a unilateralist is someone who ignores the real world and whose policy, if adopted, would lead to multilateral disarmament to failure."

Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that people's search for the truth about the Government's policies of

deterrence and disarmament had not been helped by the misleading statements of some leaders of the unilateralist movement.

He attacked as grossly irresponsible and CND allegation in a leaflet entitled *Nuclear War and You* that the Government had a policy of possible surprise attack on the Soviet Union. Although the CND had since withdrawn that allegation, they should withdraw the whole leaflet, which contained other errors.

"The Government's defence policy is to prevent war — any war — by making it clear to any possible aggressor that he would stand to lose more than he would gain," Mr. Blaker explained.

Recent events in Poland had given added weight to the policy of deterrence and disarmament by negotiation.

"They have shown the shallowness of the claim that the unilateralist campaign in the West has encouraged a full protest in Eastern Europe."

Yesterday's meeting coincided with the publication of a Conservative Political Centre pamphlet, *Defending the Peace*, by Mr. David Trippier, Conservative MP for Rossendale, in which he suggests that the message of the Government's defence policies has not got across. *Defending the Peace* (CPO, 22 Smith Square, London SW1, 22)

## Legal aid Bill for duty solicitors in courts

By Frances Gibb

A Legal Aid Bill which provides for a national scheme for a duty solicitor in magistrates' courts and for an overhaul of the way criminal legal aid is administered was published by the Government yesterday.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

It will put what has been a voluntary and piecemeal system on to a more uniform basis and standardize criteria about who receives help from the duty solicitors.

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## Policeman paid informer with drugs, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Five drug squad detectives declared war on addicts in Hull by paying an underworld informer with drugs, Mr Brian Walsh, QC, told York Crown Court yesterday.

The officers recruited a small-time pusher to supply illegal drugs to suspects before they arrested them, it was claimed.

Yesterday the jury was told how the informer, Thomas Hamilton Dunsmore, aged 30, was paid with heroin, LSD, cocaine, and cannabis from the drug squad's safe.

The officers, a detective inspector, and four detective constables based at Hull, denied 10 offences under the misuse of Drugs Act.

Mr Walsh, for the prosecution, told the jury that the officers allowed Mr Dunsmore to peddle hard-core drugs for almost three years.

He said the offences resulted in two of the officers, Det Constable Ian Davidson and Det Constable Philip Riby, receiving substantial sums of money.

Mr Walsh said the offences began in 1977, when two of the officers recruited Mr Dunsmore as an informer after arresting him in possession of cannabis in a public house in Hull.

No charges were preferred, but Mr Walsh said, "in a nutshell, between 1977 and 1979 the officers quite unlawfully supplied drugs for himself and for sale as a reward or inducement to give them information about drugs and drug users."

Mr Dunsmore's job was to supply the drugs to other users, who were then arrested in possession, to order supplies of cannabis from local pushers, so that the detectives could arrest them when they attempted to sell them, he said.

"Whether this was done by the officers out of zeal to gain convictions to boost the records of individual officers so that in the end they could get promotion, it was wrong, illegal, and wholly improper conduct," he said.

He added that each time there was a conviction drugs were given to Mr Dunsmore as a reward or inducement to trap someone else.

However, Mr Walsh said that on one occasion two detectives arrested an innocent man "set up" under their noses by Mr Dunsmore.

He said the man, a young bus driver from Saltburn, would give evidence to describe how he was convicted after a pop festival in Bridlington for possessing cannabis which he "didn't know he had on him".

Mr Dunsmore, he said, was a crucial witness, but also a criminal with a long record.

He was not "a shy or blushing violet", and when the police finally interviewed him he was promised by detectives that they would stop him if he said anything to incriminate himself.

Mr Dunsmore's career as an informer was interrupted in July, 1977, when he was jailed for six months for driving while disqualified, but Mr Walsh said that even in Manchester prison the detectives kept in touch.

On one occasion, Mr Walsh said, Det Constable Mike Atkins passed him a quantity of cannabis in a prison interview room which Mr Dunsmore later sold. On another, money was passed to him by detectives.

The accused men, all from Hull, are: Det Insp Mike Lord, aged 44, of St Margaret's Avenue, who denies possessing cannabis; Constable Davidson, aged 31, of Willerby Road, who denies inciting another to supply cannabis; two counts of unlawfully supplying LSD and heroin, and being concerned in supplying cannabis.

Constable Atkins, aged 26, of Norland Avenue, who denied unlawful possession and supply of cannabis, unlawfully supplying LSD, and inciting another to supply cannabis.

Constable Riby, aged 31, of Newton Dale, Sutton Park, who denies being concerned in the supplying of cannabis and unlawfully supplying LSD and cocaine.

Constable Andrew Ahlert, aged 33, of Riversdale Road, who denies unlawfully possessing and supplying cannabis.

The trial continues today.

## Schoolboy rapists to be detained 18 months

Two schoolboys who raped a girl aged 13 were each ordered to be detained for 18 months yesterday when Mr Justice Taylor, told Leeds Crown Court that neither a detention centre nor Borstal was adequate.

The boys, both aged 15, had pleaded guilty to raping the girl and aiding and abetting each other to commit rape. A third boy, also aged 15, who admitted indecently assaulting the girl and aiding and abetting one of the other boys in an offence of attempted rape, was sentenced to six months in a detention centre.

The judge, who directed that the three boys and the girl should not be identified, told the two rapists: "It is necessary you should be sent for a period of custody so that not only you realize, because I believe you do, but that others realize that to attack a girl this way is quite unacceptable in society."

Mr Norman Jones, for the prosecution, said the three boys and the girl attended the same school.

In Camberwell, south London, a boy aged 15 was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday, accused of raping two women in one week. He will appear at Lewisham North juvenile court, south London, next Tuesday.

The boy is also accused of causing grievous bodily harm to one of the victims and of robbing the other of cash and jewelry worth £200.



Mr Reg J. Gadsden, who will judge the six group winners for the Supreme Champion award at Crufts dog show at Earls Court, London, on Sunday week, with his fox terrier Vicky.

## Better TV favoured, not more

By Kenneth Gossling

The prospect of multichannel television on American lines is greeted with little enthusiasm by London viewers, according to a survey carried out by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A thousand people were invited to complete a questionnaire in which they were asked what they felt about five more television channels providing programmes by satellite, and for their reactions to pay-television and cheap video-cassette recorders.

Most people who took part in the survey said they would prefer to see the present channels improved than to have more channels.

A framework for television satellite broadcasting in Europe was established in 1977 when five channels were assigned to give national coverage for each European country.

The first such broadcasts will take place in about three years.

A report by Dr Mallory Weir, the IBA's deputy head of research, indicates that people are not simply against change; they were, for instance, generally in favour of video-cassette recorders.

One viewer said: "Five more channels on television would give programme planners more chance to use poor quality and cheap rubbish."

## Planners say airport inquiry is bungled

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association announced yesterday that it had withdrawn its formal application to build London's third airport at Stansted in Essex. Its action will reduce further Maplin's slim chances of being chosen as the airport site.

However, the association, which is backed by a consortium of companies and local authorities, insisted yesterday that Maplin was a better choice than the inland site at Stansted. It will present the Maplin case as an objector to Stansted at the public airport inquiry, which is now in its seventeenth week.

Maplin's hopes were damaged last year when the Greater London Council switched allegiance from it to Stansted. Last month the Ministry of Defence said that an airport at Maplin would damage the nation's defence capabilities by forcing the closure of unique experimental ranges near by.

The aim of the association's withdrawal is to save time. If its application had gone ahead the public inquiry now examining Stansted would have had to devote as much detailed attention to Maplin, even though the Government does not support it.

By putting the Maplin case in objections to Stansted the association will give Mr Graham Eyre, the inquiry inspector, an opportunity to recommend that Maplin should be considered instead of Stansted. In the light of evidence given so far, it is highly unlikely that he will do so. Nevertheless, the association has succeeded in steering the inquiry outside the narrow orbit of Stansted.

The move by the association is one of a series of policy changes that have heaped complications on the inquiry since it opened last year. Mr David Hall, director of the association, said yesterday that a local inquiry into merits of enlarging the airport at Stansted was far too narrow a format for such a broad issue as London's third airport.

He considered the present inquiry, which will hear detailed evidence about Stansted and a possible fifth terminal at Heathrow, far less suitable than a planning inquiry commission which could initiate its own research and consider a range of suitable sites.

"The Government has bungled the whole process", Mr Hall said. "It seems to have learnt nothing from the experience of other big inquiries like Windscale and the Vale of Belvoir". The Stansted inquiry has been punctuated by reproaches from Mr Eyre to government departments for failing to produce adequate evidence about the local impact of an enlarged Stansted.

Mr Hall released the text of a letter he sent last week to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. It included formal withdrawal of the Maplin application "on the ground of what has become, in our view a wasteful and inappropriate proceeding".

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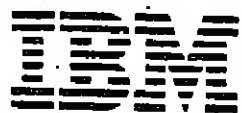
After all, it's a problem that affects everyone in Britain, not just people in business."

Ron Akass, IBM UK

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## Courts urged to shun inflated traffic fines

By Frances Gibb

Road traffic fines should remain at present levels although inflation has more than doubled since they were last reviewed, the Magistrates' Association recommended yesterday.

In its latest guidelines on road traffic offence penalties, the first since August, 1978, the association says that after consulting its branches, the overwhelming response was "that people's financial circumstances had not necessarily gone up in accordance with inflation".

Magistrates should therefore bear that in mind when fixing the amount of fines, it says. "A court should use its discretion in all the circumstances of the case in deciding whether a fine should be adjusted accordingly."

But the recommended freeze on fine levels might only be a short-lived respite, the association says. The Criminal Justice Bill, now before the Commons, proposes penalty increases for all road traffic offences. Further guidelines might therefore be issued later this year.

The latest guidelines, however, do include increased penalties for failing to stop and failing to report an accident, in line with the increase in the maximum penalty for those offences in the Transport Act, 1981.

The recommended penalties are: £100 and endorsement and consideration of disqualification for failing to stop after an accident, and £50 and an endorsement for failing to report an accident. Maximum penalties in each case are now £1,000 and endorsement.

It is emphasized that the guidelines are only suggested penalties, representing a broad consensus on appropriate penalties for average offences committed by first offenders of average means.

For the first time, they include seat belt offences, pending provisions in the Transport Act, 1981, not yet in force. A fine of £10 is suggested for those not wearing a seat belt or for driving with a child not wearing one.

Stopping on a clearway is also included for the first time. The recommended penalty is £25.

Other suggested penalties include: stopping on the motorway hard shoulder, £25; walking on motorway or slip road, £25; and on hard shoulder £15; stopping on zig-zags by pedestrian crossing, £20 and endorsement; and driving with faulty tyres, £25 and endorsement.

On drinking and driving offences, the association says they account for many accidents, injuries and deaths. "The Court of Appeal has consistently upheld higher penalties for offenders with higher blood alcohol, and it is suggested that fines and especially periods of disqualification should reflect this."

## SIKH KIDNAP FATHER CONVICTED

A Sikh who kidnapped his daughter when she defied him over an arranged marriage and ran away to live with her boyfriend was given a prison sentence of two years suspended for two years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Ranjit Rai, aged 43, of Orchard Road, Darlington, Co Durham, was convicted of assault causing actual bodily harm on his daughter, Jasbir, aged 21, and causing grievous bodily harm to her boyfriend, Mr Muhammad Hanif, a Muslim. He had denied the charges.

His son, Lakhbir Rai, aged 19, unemployed, of the same address, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Hanif and was jailed for six months. He was allowed to leave the court because both he and his father had been in custody.

The girl's fiancé in the arranged marriage, Barinder Bains, aged 23, a machine operator, of Speckmans Way, Slough, Berkshire, was given a prison sentence for two months suspended for two years. He admitted impeding the arrest of the two other men.

## PROTEST MARS CD OPENING

Anti-nuclear protesters disrupted yesterday's opening of the headquarters of the United Kingdom's early-warning and monitoring organization which exists to give public warnings of air attacks and radio active fallout.

About fifty members of the Oxford-based Campaign Atom picketed the Civil Defence building at Cowley Barracks, Oxford. Many wore white boilersuits and gas masks.

They festooned the walls and gates with balloons and banners in protest. They want Oxford to be declared a nuclear-free zone.

Mr Mark Levene and Mr Glyn Robinson, two members of Campaign Atom were allowed in to put their objections to Mr Roy Cooke, the director.

Mr Levene said: "They claim their sole function is to advise the public in the event of a nuclear war, but they have a military role and are part of the war-fighting apparatus."



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## More Red Brigades flats raided

Vicenza — Police claim to have smashed three more hideouts of the Red Brigades amid reports that arrested illegal terrorists are providing important information to police.

Arrests in the latest sweeps, in Rome flats, bring to 25 the number held since police stormed a flat in Padua and freed Brigadier General Janio Dossini, the American Nato officer, Thursday. An arms cache was found in one of the Rome hideouts.

Emilia Libera and Giovanni Ciucci, two of General Dossini's alleged kidnappers arrested on Thursday, were giving police information about their earlier activities in the Red Brigades, Italian newspapers said.

## Briton denies terrorist links

New York — John Paul Arthur, of Surrey, who had a sub-machine gun and armour piercing bullets, when he was detained in Brooklyn last week, has denied any connection with terrorist groups. A statement released through his lawyers before his court appearance rejected rumours that have linked him with the IRA, Libya and other groups.

Arthur, who entered the United States through Florida, was arrested in a predominantly Italian neighbourhood after a resident reported a suspicious car in the area. He is being held on \$535,000. He was due to appear in court later and was expected to be remanded for trial.

## Mugabe seeks Namibia action

Salisbury — It was time for the Western contact group to take a much firmer line in getting South Africa to comply with an undiluted resolution on Namibia, Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe said here.

Pretrial was receiving notice through the prevarication, if not encouragement, of some Western countries, he told 61 representatives of the Lomé Convention countries.

## Navy test-fires missile in US

Cape Canaveral, Fla. — A British submarine has successfully test-fired what is believed to be an improved version of the Polaris missile, 30 miles off the Florida coast.

Officials refused to confirm that Saturday's launch from the *Renown* while submerged at the eastern test range of the United States Air Force involved a new Polaris missile, but officials have acknowledged that Britain has been conducting land-based launches of an improved Polaris in the area for several years.

## First day of Senegambia

Abidjan — The long-planned Senegambia Confederation, uniting Senegal with The Gambia, was born at midnight. It grew out of a coup attempt last year in The Gambia capital, Banjul, which was defeated with the help of Senegalese troops.

Both countries retain their sovereignty but will develop joint policies for defence, foreign affairs, finance and customs.

## 40 accused of Bihar blindings

Delhi — Forty police officers and others are expected to be prosecuted for their part in the blinding of prisoners in the north Indian state of Bihar.

The decision to suspend the men and to clear the way for court action comes 15 months after newspapers disclosed that 32 prisoners at Bhagalpur had been blinded with needles, bicycle spokes and acid.

## Peking's offer seen as ploy

Peking — China's offer to negotiate a time limit on American arms sales to Taiwan was seen by Western diplomats here as an attempt to appear flexible rather than an indication of a wish to compromise.

The statement was aimed at making Peking appear as reasonable as possible, they said, so that if Sino-American relations deteriorate, China can deny responsibility and blame Washington's intransigence.

## Dynamite deaths

Altendorf, Switzerland — Two workers were killed and seven others injured when dynamite exploded and set off a fire at an explosives factory.

## El Salvador slaughter begins after midnight

From Paul Eilman, San Salvador, Feb 1

The name of Jorge Aurelio Hurrutia did not figure on the list carried by the masked men dressed in Salvadoran army uniforms who came to his house in the early hours of the morning. But he was shot anyway.

His body, with two bullet holes in the heart, and the back of the head blown away, was one of 19 discovered yesterday morning in San Antonio Abad, a poverty-stricken slum on the north-western edge of San Salvador.

According to their families, all 19 died in similar circumstances — shot after their homes were raided by men dressed in army uniforms. All were inhabitants of the neighbourhood and ranged in age from a woman of 57 to two brothers, aged 16 and 14.

According to the Salvadoran military command, "some 20 terrorists" were killed during an operation mounted by the first infantry brigade after complaints from local inhabitants about "subversive" activity.

Injecting an element of confusion, a communiqué from the command further claimed that "as usual, the subversives took their dead and wounded with them".

Between the military operation and the 19 bodies found in the streets of San Antonio Abad.

Obfuscation of this sort is not unusual in El Salvador where the conduct of the military has again come under the scrutiny of the United States Congress after allegations that troops slaughtered almost 1,000 civilians during an operation in December in northern Morazan province near the border with Honduras.

The way in which Señor Hurrutia died offers a grisly insight into the often random way in which death finds its victims in the Salvadoran war, which last year accounted for nearly 17,000 civilian fatalities.

According to his daughter, Sandra Dalia, aged 15, the family was awakened by banging on the front door at 1 a.m. She said her father, dressed only in trousers, answered the door and was immediately seized by men in black berets and olive green uniforms, the lower halves of their faces being hidden by masks.

They brought her father back later to collect a shirt and a pair of shoes. They asked what he did for a living and when I told them he was a driver for the Ministry of Agriculture, they laughed. Señora Hurrutia said. It was the last time she saw her father alive. But the uniformed men came back a third time to search the

house and to question Señor Hurrutia's eldest son, Sergio, aged 16.

Other inhabitants of San Antonio Abad told stories of windows being shot out when people took too long to answer their doors and of finding bodies with their hands tied behind their backs.

The people of San Antonio Abad alleged that the killings had been carried out by troops from the San Carlos garrison, which is responsible for security in this sector of the capital. The garrison is the headquarters of the First Infantry Brigade.

The area, which lies on the lower slopes of the San Salvador volcano, is described by military sources as an infiltration route into the capital by guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí national liberation movement which is fighting to overthrow the military and civilian junta led by President José Napoleón Duarte.

The apparent link between Salvadoran troops and yet more slaughtering of civilians adds to the confusion which has informed congressional leaders that it intends to provide a further \$55m (about £29.4m) in military aid to the Salvadoran junta on an emergency basis.

American officials in San Salvador concede that efforts to impress upon the Salvadoran command the damage done to its image by the continuing excesses against civilians have largely proved fruitless. "I guess you cannot change the habits of a hundred years overnight", one official said.

## Americans step up military aid

Washington: The United States is to ship \$55m in emergency military equipment to El Salvador to replace aircraft which were destroyed during a guerrilla attack on an air base near San Salvador last week, it was announced today (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The announcement was made by Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, in testimony to the Senate foreign relations committee during which he asked for additional American military and economic aid for the three members of the newly formed Central American Democratic Community — El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

During his testimony, Mr Enders also confirmed for the first time that Cuba had

recently received a new consignment of MiG 23 "Flogger" jet aircraft.

The presence at an airport near Havana of a number of crates believed to contain the aircraft was reported last month, but until now the Administration has refused to comment on these reports. Mr Enders said the aircraft formed the second squadron of MiG 23s received by Cuba from the Soviet Union.

He also said that Cuba received some 63,000 tons of military supplies last year, more than in any other year since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

The need for additional assistance to pro-Western states in Central America, Mr Enders gave a warning that "unless we act now, the future could well bring more Cuban totalitarian regimes so linked to the Soviet Union that they become factors in the military balance, and so incompetent economically that their citizens' only hope becomes that of one day migrating to the United States".

He said that Nicaragua was already in the process of "being exploited as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention" in neighbouring El Salvador. Yesterday, Mr Ruben Zamora, a spokesman for the Salvadoran guerrillas, said that additional military aid to El Salvador would only prolong the killing in the Central American state. He said that nothing short of sending American combat troops to El Salvador could prevent the eventual defeat of the Duarte regime.

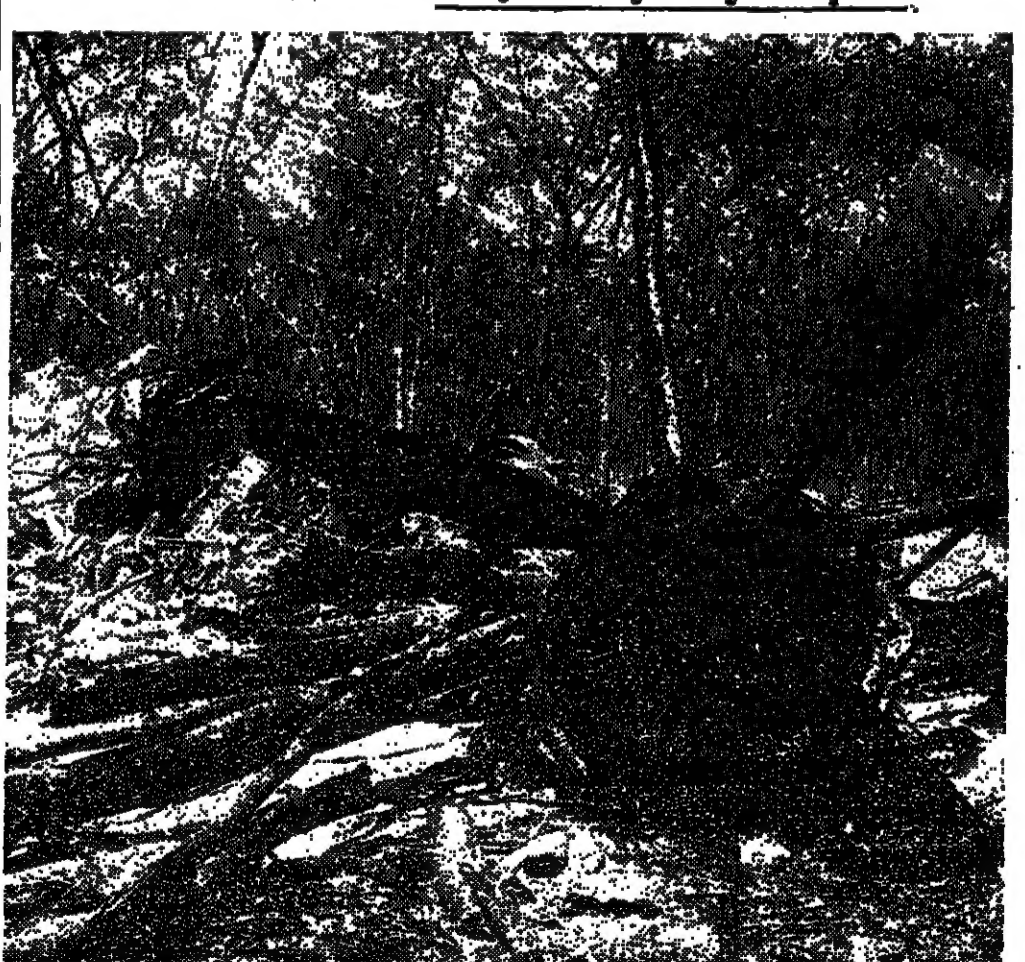
The Government forces are not going to be able to win the war with just more equipment," Mr Zamora said. "To win the war the Reagan Administration would need to do so much more than the American people would not accept it".

The Administration is expected to ask Congress to increase military and economic aid to El Salvador by \$100m to \$235m this fiscal year. A further increase to \$300m is expected for next year. The request will be contained in the President's budget presentation next Monday.

Last week President Reagan said that the Salvadoran regime of President Duarte was making sufficient progress on political and human rights for it to qualify for additional military and economic aid.

However this assumption is expected to be challenged in Congress this week, particularly after a series of press reports about an alleged massacre in which between 733 and 826 people are said to have been killed by government troops.

## 20-year mystery deepens



Death scene: Wreckage of the aircraft in which Dag Hammarskjöld and 12 others died lying in a Northern Rhodesian forest in 1961. Right, from top, three men in the jungle: Tshombe, Bodenan and Hammarskjöld.

## Tshombe linked with Hammarskjöld death

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Feb 1

The alleged kidnapper of Moïse Tshombe has claimed the former Prime Minister of the Congo and Katanga leader was responsible for the death in 1961 of Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Francis Bodenan, who is accused of hijacking to Algeria in 1967 an aircraft carrying Mr Tshombe, has also claimed that the Spanish and Belgian intelligence agencies were involved in the kidnapping.

After the Congo civil war in the early 1960s, Tshombe was sentenced to death in his absence and spent several years of exile in Madrid.

A charter flight on which he was travelling between Ibiza and Palma Majorca, was diverted to a military airport near Algiers. When the aircraft touched down, all the occupants were immediately detained by Algerian security officials.

M Bodenan, a 48-year-old Frenchman, has made the latest round of allegations in an interview with the Madrid publication *Diario 16* at the prison in Palma where he is awaiting trial by a Spanish military court.

It was apparently his third contact with journalists in a few days and came just after the military judicial authorities had postponed his trial sine die.

M Bodenan was arrested in Belgium and extradited to Spain to stand trial for the hijacking, which is assumed to have taken place in Spanish air space. His lawyers are questioning this assumption.

At the time of the hijacking M Bodenan had apparently convinced Tshombe that he was a trusted member of his entourage. But, he told a reporter, he had turned against the Katanga leader after learning of his alleged

role in the death of Hammarskjöld. Hammarskjöld was killed in an aircraft at night near Ndola in what was then Northern Rhodesia in September, 1961. He was to have met Tshombe at Ndola for talks aimed at restoring peace to the Congolese province of Katanga where fighting had broken out between Katanga forces and United Nations troops fighting in the Congo.

The cause of the disaster has always been something of a mystery and there was much obscurity surrounding the circumstances of the flight itself.

M Bodenan also told his interviewers that he had turned against Tshombe after he had described how he had tortured and killed his arch-political enemy in the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, with a pair of scissors. Lumumba, who was the leader of the newly indepen-



## US puts off declaring Polish debt in default

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 1

The Reagan Administration said today it will not declare in default Poland's debt to American banks despite failure of the Jaruzelski Government to meet scheduled payments of \$71.3m about £37.5m in January.

Instead, the Administration has decided to reimburse nine United States banks for the past due payments of principal and interest owed in January, said Mr Beryl Sprinkel, United States Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs.

The Administration's newly articulated policy on Polish debt, opposed by hardliners in the Defence and Commerce Departments, would permit the Govern-

ment to repay American banks a total of \$397m owed by Poland this year.

The money is part of \$1,600m in loans made or guaranteed by the United States Agriculture Department to finance grain sales to Poland under community credit corporation programmes.

Some hardliners in the Administration had urged President Reagan to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union and the Eastern countries by declaring Poland's debt in default.

Mr Sprinkel said today, however, that "at the moment we are taking the position that we are not going to declare a default" in order to avoid putting additional strain on the international monetary system.

## GREENE IN POLITICAL FURORE

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, Feb 1

The "Graham Greene Affair" developed into a political dispute in France today as opposing figures from the Riviera exchanged rhetorical punches over the British writer's allegations of police-protected crime and corruption in Nice.

M Jacques Medecin, Mayor of Nice, was first into the fray with an interview accusing Mr Greene of fouling the Riviera nest. He said the allegations, first made in a letter to *The Times* a week ago and enlarged upon in an interview with *The Sunday Times* published yesterday, were romanticized conclusions drawn from the unhappy experiences of one of Mr Greene's friends threatened by her criminal ex-husband.

"Once again, I note that a writer who likes the Côte d'Azur to the point of settling down to live here fouls the nest in order to gain a bit of publicity and promote a novel through scandal," he added.

This was too much for M Max Gallo, Socialist Deputy for Nice, a long-time political opponent of the right-wing mayor and author himself of a recent novel about crime and corruption in the area.

Mr Greene's allegations, which he is putting forward in detail in a book to be entitled *L'Occase*, attracted widespread attention in the French press and broadcasting media today. By tonight, the French news agency was heading its stories: "Affaire Graham Greene".

In Spain, the whole documentary was shown in prime time, watched by an estimated nine million. Two West German stations beamed shortened versions, drawing some complaints from viewers about cold war-style propaganda. Others said the whole programme should have been shown.

Poland is not the only Eastern block country where prices of basic commodities have risen sharply; over the weekend Czechoslovak authorities also introduced a wide range of price increases.

Although the increases are much smaller than those in Poland they none the less represent a cut in Czechoslovak living standards.

The price of meat has been raised by an average of 25 per cent, cigarettes by 30 per cent, tobacco products by 39 per cent, wine by 18 per cent, and domestic vodka by 25 per cent. The price of rice is also

## Bad press for TV spectacular

By Our Foreign Staff

President Reagan's television spectacular, *Tel Poland Be Poland*, has had a bad press.

Denunciation of the programme by Moscow and Warsaw yesterday as subversive and hypocritical was predictable. But commentators in the West, taking a less obviously committed view, were also lukewarm.

The documentary, protesting against martial law in Poland, was broadcast in the United States on Sunday night and beamed to more than 50 countries.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, was quick to react to the programme. "It is already obvious that this subversive television show was a complete failure," it declared.

In Warsaw the official news agency attacked the show as hypocritical and "unprecedented propaganda".

Both Soviet and Polish television countered the American broadcast with special transmissions of their own. Soviet viewers were shown clips of alleged United States intelligence agents at work in Warsaw.

The Warsaw daily *Zycie Warszawy*, said the American effort marked a return to "the psychological struggle against the East which was a complete failure of the classical cold war period".

Most viewers in Western Europe saw only shortened versions of the programme, or reports of it on news bulletins. BBC television said yesterday it had not yet decided whether to screen the whole programme.

"We're still looking at it, whether or not to do anything further," it was stated.

The British press led by *The Times* report from Washington, was critical, dismissing the show as dull.

In France, only *Le Figaro* among leading dailies gave it much credit.

In Holland, debate on the broadcast overshadowed the issues it sought to address. Critics said that the President was using the show for his own political goals, while ignoring human rights violations in El Salvador. Turkey and other countries with sympathies to which it was

sympathetic.

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## Czech food prices rise sharply

From David Blow, Vienna, Feb 1

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## Israelis unveil autonomy package

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 1

Israel last night officially published its proposals for the establishment of a Palestinian self-governing authority to administer the West Bank and Gaza under the autonomy plan.

There were no surprises in the document which proposed powers for the self-governing authority in 13 spheres and said the number of representatives in the administrative council should be commensurate with the functions listed.

The Egyptians in the autonomy negotiations have favoured a council with a score of deputies to serve as a legislature and not merely deal with executive matters.

The functions listed by the Israelis include the supervision of the administration of justice, control of all branches of agriculture and fisheries, as well as finance, including the budget of the administrative council, taxation, and the allocation of funds for various administrative departments.

The council, according to the Israeli proposals, will also control appointments to the civil service, and working conditions, as well as education and health services, housing and public works.

Also entrusted to the Palestinians will be the maintenance and coordination of transport, local postal and communications services, welfare, labour and employment services, and municipal affairs.

"A strong local police force" will function as stated in the Camp David agreements. Prison services will be maintained for offenders sentenced by the area courts.

The remaining functions will be the maintenance of religious facilities and the promotion of industry, commerce and tourism.

Electives to the administrative council are to be held "as expeditiously as possible", after the autonomy agreement is concluded. The inauguration of the self-governing authority will mark the start of the five-year transitional period for the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli military government and civilian administration will be withdrawn and replaced by "in specified locations". A map of the locations will be presented during the negotiations.

The homes of three suspected terrorists were sealed last night by security forces in reprisal measures, it was announced by the Israeli Military command here.

They included two houses in Hebron said to have been the home of members of a Fatah terrorist squad who killed two Christian pilgrims in a grenade attack in the Old City of Jerusalem, on September 12. An official announcement said the prisoners had confessed to the murder and to a grenade attack on an Israeli car.

The third house, at Kfar Katana near Ramallah, was said to have belonged to a prisoner who admitted firing on a bus on July 29 injuring four civilians including a pregnant woman.

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The move is seen as one of the most important developments in Egypt's foreign relations since the murder of President Sadat last October.

□ Paris: President Mitterrand will visit Egypt after his return to France in March. President Mubarak said following talks with the French leader at the Elysée Palace here today (Jonathan Fenby writes).

Mitterrand and the Egyptian President discussed the Middle East situation, including the Palestinian autonomy question, and East-West and North-South relations during their four days' meeting.

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## South African journalists alarmed by registry plan

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 1

The compulsory registration of all journalists in a central roll, from which those found guilty of "improper conduct" could be struck off and thereby prohibited from exercising their profession, is the central recommendation of an important report on the South African mass media tabled in Parliament here today.

The Government-commissioned report, drawn up by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn, a former Administrator-General of Namibia (South-West Africa), is widely seen in journalistic circles as the most serious threat to press freedom in the modern history of South Africa.

The report, which runs to three volumes and more than 1,300 pages, proposes the setting-up of a General Council for Journalists, which would regulate entry to the profession and sit in judgment on journalists accused of violating a statutory code of conduct.

The ultimate sanction available to the council would be to strike a journalist off the roll. Anyone who employed, published or broadcast the work of an unenrolled journalist would be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to 5,000 rand (\$2,780).

The report presents its recommendations as being intended to "professionalize" journalism by putting it on the same footing as the other "great historic and learned professions", such as medicine and the law. (The General Council would, for example, set entrance examinations for aspiring journalists.)

It is proposed that the council should have 12 members, of whom three would be Government appointees, three chosen by newspaper journalists and three by broadcasting journalists. They would serve for two years. During the first year of the council's life, however, all its members would be appointed by the Government.

There seems little doubt that the council's membership would be heavily weighted towards the generally pro-Government, Afrikaans end of the press spectrum. The main radio and television network, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, is largely a tool of Government propaganda while most magazines are owned by Afrikaans press groups.

Although the report finds fault with the Afrikaans press for being "too closely identified with Afrikaner nationalism its most barbed shafts are reserved for the "negativistic" reporting of the English-language press, which is the chief and most vociferous vehicle for criticism of apartheid.

The report also criticizes the Government for excessive secretiveness. It then goes on, however, to plead for the

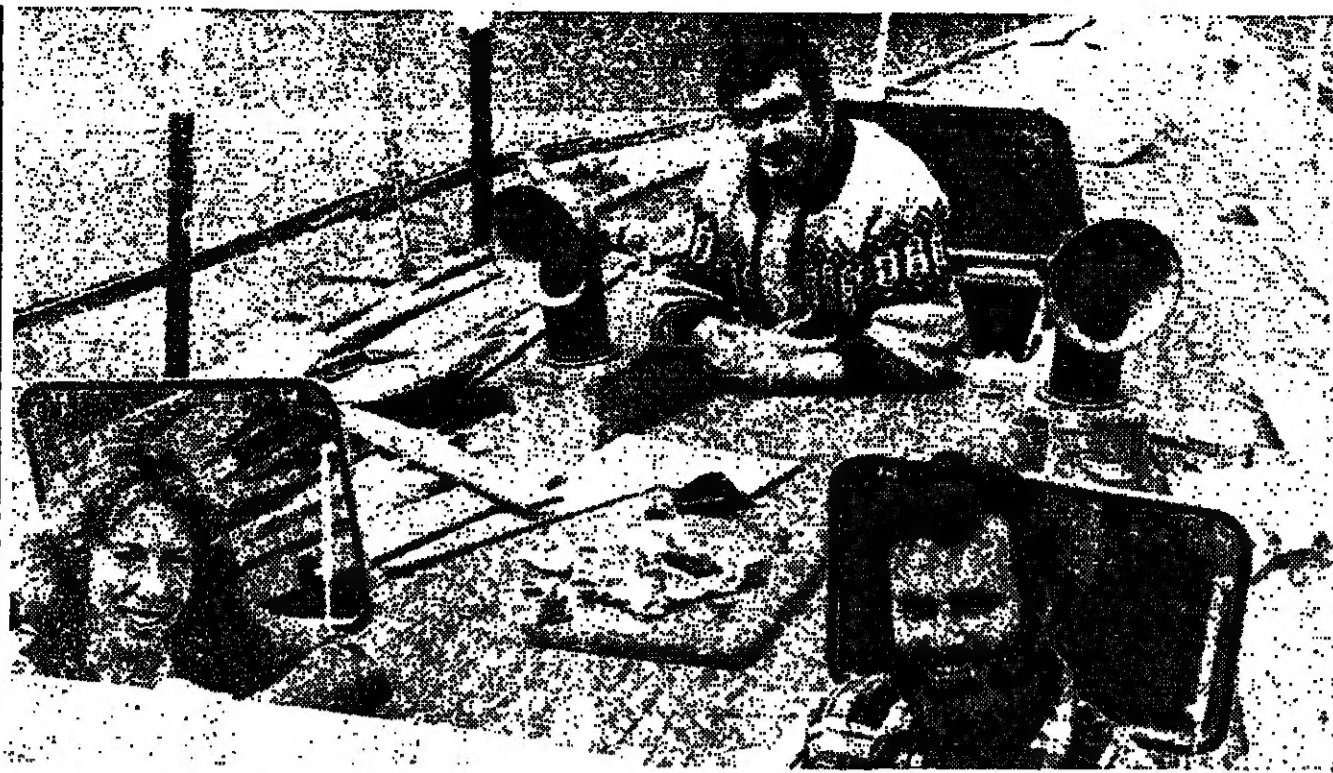
exhumation of the discredited Department of Information (disbanded after the "Muldergate" scandal), arguing that it should be empowered to conduct both "covert and overt" propaganda without having to account publicly for its use of Government funds.

The report comes close to saying that the Government was wrong in 1977 to ban outspoken black newspapers like the *World* and the *Post*, but says that the "moderate black community" should be encouraged to establish an independent black press.

The report also calls for greater diversification of newspaper ownership. In particular, it recommends that "cross-holdings" between the two big English-language groups, Argus and South African Associated Newspapers, should be ended.

Much of the report is devoted to a lengthy and repetitive analysis of what it calls "the South African circumstance", chiefly the external military threat posed by the Soviet Union and the internal subversive threat posed by alleged Soviet proxies, which include church, academic and press critics of apartheid as well as black movements.

A large section of the press, the report complains, is dedicated to intensifying South Africa's "pariah status" and to the "substitution of a radically different political and socio-economic order for that now prevailing in South Africa".



## Frenzied killer strangled yachtsman

Mr Michael Crocker, aged 42 (right), who was strangled on board his yacht in the Caribbean, with his wife Trisha and Mr David Brownjohn, who helped to build the yacht.

Trinidad police said yesterday that they believed the strangled had reacted in a frenzy of fear after boarding the boat to rob it. He stabbed Mr David Drake, aged 40, in the neck. Mr Drake, Lloyds Bank deputy regional general manager in Birmingham, is recovering satisfactorily in hospital.

Mr Randolph Burroughs, the Commissioner of Police for Trinidad and Tobago, is leading the manhunt. Mrs Crocker was under police guard yesterday recovering from shock in an hotel in Port of Spain. The British High Commission said she intended to fly home with her husband's body as soon as possible.

## Defiant Ecevit freed from detention

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Feb 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, emerged today from two months in prison, making clear that his fighting spirit was unaffected.

Mr Ecevit, a social democrat, was sent to prison by a military court for allegedly violating a ban imposed by the military rulers, on public statements by former politicians.

He was said to have distributed a statement to the foreign press containing his replies to the charges presented by General Kenan Evren, the head of state, against pre-coup political leaders to justify the dissolution of the political parties last October.

Arriving at his home to a loud reception by his friends and former party followers, Mr Ecevit told the foreign press corps that though he was discharged from the prison, "so long as the limitations on my freedom continue, I feel in prison everywhere".

Defending the freedom of thought and expression, which he said was a means of achieving humane solutions to human problems "without which a society is bound to degenerate into a society doomed to exploitation and indignity".

"The will for freedom and democracy shall peacefully break through all obstacles

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Two saved from ice by Britons

An RAF officer and four soldiers drove across a frozen Norwegian lake today to save a father and son who had been fishing through a hole in the ice when it cracked beneath them.

The pair were floundering in the water of Lake Voss, near Bergen while other fishermen looked on helplessly, afraid to go to cross the ice.

The pair were rescued by a RAF officer and four soldiers who drove across the ice to reach them. The pair were rescued by a RAF officer and four soldiers who drove across the ice to reach them.

With him was his team from the Royal Signals. They pulled the men from the water, wrapped them in blankets and then drove back across the ice to an ambulance.

### E German plea to disarm

Berlin. — East Germany's Protestant Church, the only important body in the country not state-controlled, has called for moves towards unilateral disarmament, authoritative Church sources said.

The move came in a report by Bishop Werner Krusche, approved at a national synod last weekend from which the East German Government barred Western reporters.

### Kurds release Austrians

Vienna. — Three Austrians taken hostage by Kurdish nationalists in Iraq last November have been released, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said. Herr Stephen Schmidt, Herr Otto Stern and Herr Walter Brendinger were working for an Austrian construction firm when they were kidnapped.

### British heart man better

Peking. — Mr Leslie Applewhite, the British engineer whose heart stopped beating for 55 minutes while he was being treated for a heart attack, has left Xian in north-western China where he was in hospital.

A British Embassy spokesman said that Mr Applewhite, aged 27, was on his way to Peking and would fly home on Thursday.

### Pyrenees border traffic blocked for fourth day

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 1

Road traffic between Spain and France remained almost at a standstill today for the fourth day in a row, as a result of a work-rule by French customs officials and roadblocks organized by lorry drivers angered at the delays.

A written assurance from the French authorities, that the passage of vehicles would be allowed to speed up, was delivered yesterday to the civil governor of the Spanish border province of Guipuzcoa. A few of the thousands of lorries waiting on both sides of the frontier began moving past a customs point at Irun-Hendaye, on one of the main routes, at about one minute early today.

## Wine war bubbles over again

From Ian Murray Brussels, Feb 1

The European Commission wants France to explain why it reimposed import controls on Italian wine on Friday.

The ban ends the uneasy truce in the wine war between the two countries which erupted last autumn and for which France still has to face two cases before the European Court for imposing a three-month ban.

The latest French action comes after a week during which angry wine growers along the Mediterranean coast began smashing barrels of imported Italian wine because it was for sale at below French prices.

On the face of it, however, the Commission feels that the ban is against the basic EEC principle which allows the free circulation of goods — hence its demand for an explanation.

M Claude Villain, Director General for Agriculture, gave a warning to the French farming lobby at the weekend in a television interview. France should understand, he said, that 45 per cent of its agricultural produce was exported and Italy was its best customer.

"Simply say that you have to be careful if you take measures which, on the one hand are forbidden by the treaty of Rome, and on the other which run the risk, if they drag Italy into retaliation, of serious consequences for French agriculture."

The French wine growers' protests last week arose from a sudden surge in imports of stronger Italian wine used for blending in France. This was almost certainly because French table wine bottlers were trying to avoid paying a new tax of 5 francs (50p) a hectolitre on heavier wines, which came into force today.

□ The taste for wine continued to grow in Britain last year, with a 15 per cent growth in the sale of light wines according to latest statistics from the Wine Development Board (the Press Association reports). But Britain still remained the lowest wine consumer in Europe, except for Ireland.

The light wine sector was the only one in the drinks market to show any growth last year, not because people were drinking more but because more people were drinking wine.

About 25 million are now drinking wine in Britain, some of them only about a bottle a month. Although light wine sales are up, the amount still averages only two and a half glasses a person a week.

It's the same old story, reverberating emptily about in drab, chilly stations; meaningless excuses for unpardonable inefficiencies.

When we were invited to design an integrated audio-visual communications system for the new Tyne and Wear Metro, we decided to tackle the injury and the insult together.

In its entirety, the system will greatly reduce the likelihood of delays. But when they are unavoidable, at least you'll hear about them quickly and clearly.

A total of 432 loudspeakers (most of them high-quality 30 watt units) will broadcast announcements over each of the forty-two stations.

Fifteen stations will be continuously scanned by eighty-six closed circuit TV cameras.

And fourteen will be provided with a two-way communication point, serving as a combined emergency alarm system and passenger enquiry terminal.

The entire system will be monitored

and co-ordinated at a Control Centre in South Gosforth.

You could call it the acceptable face of the microchip.

We feel the same sense of corporate satisfaction when a pilot learns to fly a new aeroplane without so much as leaving the ground, on a Rediffusion flight simulator.

Or a sailor, days from land, pinpoints his position to within 200 metres, using a Rediffusion navigation system.

Or whenever a businessman punches the keys on his desktop System Alpha Teleputer terminal and gains instant access to information it might have taken him days to acquire in the past.

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BUZZ BUZZ HOWL HISS CRACKLE DELAY,,

How often have you heard these immortal words?







THE ARTS

Television

A decent burial

The death of a dossier is the saddest thing, but it was Irish Night, too, on Police (BBC 1) so a humbling assembly tempered the sadness. One of the gentlemen across the road had been found dead at the foot of the stairs, had he? Well, no, said the lady from the other side of the street — she was pursuing a line not perhaps on show but certainly implied — she could not really say whether one of them had walked with a stick, they were all so drunk all the time, what difference did it make? There are moments, every week, when Police should be called "public".

The problem, of course, was shaking Mickie the Brackie's fellow-dossiers out of their boyish, alcoholic daze enough to discover which of them, if any, had given him a push. Nobody made a bit of sense first time round, so the house was sealed off, "overnight accommodation" provided at the Station (with Full English Breakfast?) and further dunces withheld for 24 hours. The next day, it was clear that they had been trying to articulate before. Sentences rose gently and trailed off, gazes were met or evaded, big hands sweated, opened and shut. It was no good: to the Chief Inspector's displeasure, they all had to be sent home. The Coroner was called in and the body, said to have helped to build Aldermaston Research Station and to have been sustained in a late life of liquor by revenue from property in Ireland, was decently buried. Enthralling.

Horizon (BBC2) asked "What happened to the Energy Crisis?" and Christopher Woolley surveyed the current state of resources and research into finite and alternative forms of power to the point where the information piled up into what was described in the programme itself as a fatigue-inducing load. Was nuclear energy necessary? Could we employ Swedish methods of inter-seasonal storage in our more equable climate? Could we follow the French example in Brittany and build a barrage across the Severn? The three gathered energy in Cornwall and Passive Solar Design. And what about offshore wind farms, Bristol Cylinders ("submerged but buoyant") and the Lancaster inflatable Bag?

In Central Milton Keynes — everyone now seems to be calling it — eight houses enjoyed experimental energy, the behaviour and response to domestic requirements of which were precisely recorded on a blue board of terminals marked "3rd Bedroom", "Floor", "Door", "Edge" (and could almost swear "Cook") — but then people expect that kind of serious attention in CMK. Throughout the programme statistics stunned one on the head and hurried away in the mind, while a few lingered to puzzle. Enormous windmills, for example, two hundred feet high and three hundred feet across, would only provide electricity for six thousand people which, given the size of the things, did not seem nearly enough.

Fatigue-inducing load was more skillfully avoided on this occasion by Panorama (BBC1), in which Philip Tibenham and Tom Bower managed to make a programme about foreign policy and international relations — specifically those of the United States (dormant) and Israel (active) towards Iran that had everything from hawkish statements by Israeli officials on the need to overthrow Khomeini from within before chaos and Communism follow his death and American caution from former CIA men and Ambassadors still in shock from the mob-trauma of Tehran. The programme was a remarkably clear account of opposing positions that gave equal plausibility to both sides.

Michael Ratcliffe

Galleries

Representational relish of the master collagist

Kurt Schwitters in England

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal

James Cowie: The Artist at Work

Fine Art Society

Jean Marchand

Christopher Hull Gallery

Sickert and His Printmaker Friends

Parkin Gallery

Two major exhibitions dedicated to the same artist in the course of four months might seem disproportionate — even when they are some small posthumous neglect. But Kurt Schwitters in England, at the Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, until February 28, is so different from the memorable London show at Marlborough Fine Art last October that the enterprise completely justifies itself.

In Kendal, as the title suggests, the accent is entirely upon Schwitters' work while he was living in the Lake District after he had been released from internment as an enemy alien early in the war. Here too, despite the unlikely circumstances, Schwitters continued to work on his vaguely Dadaist projects, turning out a remote but in a sense third Merzbau, his indefinable form of sculpture/painting/installation which he had previously attempted in Hanover and then

again during the first stage of his exile, in Norway. He also made collages and painted abstracts. But his principal occupation was painting portraits and landscapes. One might suppose that this was out of dire necessity and responded to no artistic urgings of his own. But, though he did indeed sometimes paint them for local tradesmen who supplied him with the basic necessities of life, or as a friendly return for hospitality, it is quite clear that he never, at any period in his career, looked down on representational art or felt it was any less natural and valid a part of his activity than the most advanced and incomprehensible.

Which is very reasonable, since he was in fact a thoroughly accomplished representational painter, who obviously worked in the traditional forms not only with facility but with great and painterly relish. Finally one may feel that the area of unique mastery is collage, which he arguably did better, and certainly more magically and less literally, than anyone else. His abstract paintings too have their admirers, but they seldom seem quite right to me: too much like Theosophical thought-forms struggling ineffectually to be born. (Though I must admit that some of the smaller ones in the Kendal show are wonderful: the two tiny *One Paintings* of 1945 and 1947, making their effect with just a few discreetly distributed curves and dabs of colour, or *The Pool*, from the mid-Forties, which arranges its not quite decipherable shapes in a manner recalling *Archie* by Francis Bacon.) But the fully figurative work inhabits a different world. A number of the landscapes, and one or two of the portraits, such as *Mrs Horner*, suggest an unspoken affinity with Kokoschka. But in most of them he looks like a good, not quite placable Post-Impressionist. The confident, saturated brush-strokes of the *Lakeland Scene* (c.1946), a subtle harmony in greens, or the more choppy, dynamic style of *The Bridge House, Ambleside* (1946), are very much of a piece with his bristly sketched portraits of local friends like *Mr Ruddle* or his admirable flower-piece, *Was his heart in them?* You need only look at some of the splendid

sketches he was always doing of scenes and people to see that it was Perverse to the end, he refused to be categorized. Or are we perverse in that?

We have another chance to make the acquaintance of a neglected-but-unclassifiable artist closer to home — our home, not his — in London with the Fine Art Society's presentation of the Scottish Art Council's touring show *James Cowie: The Artist at Work* (until February 19). Cowie only looks unclassifiable, in that he went single-mindedly in his own direction throughout the Thirties, when no one else in England or Scotland was doing likewise; but seen in an international context such as last year's big Centre Pompidou exhibition *Les Réalistes 1919-1939* (not that he was, except mentally by a few British visitors), he may look like a somewhat neglected, level-headed brand of detailed realism can immediately be compared with the work of the German painters of the Neue Sachlichkeit group, or some of the equally neglected French artists who took themselves off the Ecole-de-Paris highroad to abstraction around the same time.

For all that, he still remains a uniquely disturbing artist, isolated by his temperament and personal vision rather than by any eccentricities of style. Few who saw his amazing *Two Schoolgirls* (1934-35) in the Hayward's *Thirties* show will have forgotten it. The two girls sit side-by-side, not so much looking at each other as looking towards each other in silent question; behind them a classical cast, and they are holding what look like smocks on their knees. It is at once intimate and monumental; they look as undefended and impregnable as the *Mona Lisa*. And this same feeling of *tempus mortis*, of waiting for Godot, impregnates many of Cowie's paintings of people, four of the most important, among which are included in this show along with a fascinating array of sketches and preparatory studies.

To my taste he is a little bit more telling when the mystery of his paintings remains implicit and undefined, as in *Increasingly* in the Forties, he began to paint slightly surrealistic fantasies like *Noon*



Schwitters's "Mr Routledge" (left), a brisk (and perverse?) sketch of friendship; and detail from Sickert's etching "The New Tie", the work of a still-underestimated giant

(1946), with nude figures disposed ambiguously in realistic landscapes, the sense of airlessness becomes too oppressive, the ability to disturb too calculated. But even here there is no doubting the force behind his work; the passing years make him look more and more important.

While we are no the subject of neglect, it is well worth taking a look at the show of oils, watercolours, and drawings by Jean Marchand at the Christopher Hull Gallery, 670 Fulham Road, until February 13. Marchand was a near-contemporary of Derain, and passed through many of the same stylistic phases. Many competent judges (Roger Fry among them) thought as highly of his work, and yet though in London both O'Hana and Crane Kalman have constituted themselves his advocates, here and elsewhere he had sunk into obscurity since his death in 1941, aged 53. Quite possibly he never consistently fulfilled his potential (but then

there are many who think the same of Derain after his brief and dazzling Fauve period), but there is a considerable body of worthwhile work, as can be seen here best in some excellent drawings of French landscape, town and mountain, which have an elusive Cubist flavour without pushing too far into analysis. It is ultimately the sense rather than the mind which tell. And that, for Marchand's sort of painter, is just as it should be.

Certainly Sickert, in this country, has never suffered from neglect — or not overall, though the recent show of his later work at the Hayward has demonstrated (to some) how far his last years have been underestimated. But Sickert was a giant, and inevitably those around a giant tend to get overshadowed. The main discovery of Sickert and His Printmaker Friends at Michael Parkin's in Motcomb Street until February 13 is not Sickert's prints — they are of course very good,

but then we know that already — but inevitably the work of the friends. Some of them, like Whistler and Manet, were quite grand and successful in their own right; others, like Walter Greaves and Thomas Way, were lesser members of Whistler's circle rather than Sickert's. But the prints of one is tempted to call them Sickert's hand-maidens, for that gives a just enough impression of the relationship — Sylvia Gosse, Wendela Boreel and Erid Bagnold can frequently take us by surprise and are on occasion as good as those of the master himself. Not consistently, though there is the catch. But it would still be far more agreeable to have an etching by Wendela Boreel at her best, as in *Mornington Crescent from Sickert's Window* or *Window Shopping* — *Moyse Stevens, Berkeley Square*, than one in which Sickert nods.

John Russell Taylor

London debuts

Pianistic enterprise

Few pianists arrive at their debuts with the enterprise and imagination shown by Alan Weiss in the first half of his recital, a judicious choice of sonatas by Haydn and Schubert surrounding Weber's *Variations*. The Haydn was a remote but in a sense third Merzbau, his indefinable form of sculpture/painting/installation which he had previously attempted in Hanover and then

nothing of this kind was possible for the Brekka Ensemble, a group as odd in formation as in any for which he studiously avoided masterpieces are available to mezzo-soprano, clarinet, viola and piano. Instead we had a curious miscellany of Latin-American and east European material, together with a 25-year-old sonata rescued by Charles Camilleri for its belated baptism and a collection of songs by Spohr, his opus 103, in which voice and clarinet were made more to interfere with than support each other, and which three-

tened to amble pleasantly for ever.

This dismal choice of repertoire was especially regrettable when the performers had so much more to offer. The mezzo, Jennifer Bolam, showed off a young voice of surprising versatility, able to move speedily from winning brightness to soulful gloom in characterizing the separate numbers of Dvorak's *Gypsy Songs*, but she would not have been obliged to try so hard if she had sung them in English. Her partner, Lynn Holman, on clarinet, had a good firm tone and enough musicianship to make much of mediocre stuff.

The Hertz Trio from Canada, with the much richer piano trio repertoire to draw on, did well to base their recital on two big romantic works, Brahms's C major Trio and Arany's D minor, for their strengths lay in a full, unified tone, secure movement together and admirably firm yet flexible phrasing, particularly from the violin and cello when they were playing together in octaves.

Paul Griffiths

Season's Greetings

Greenwich

Discussing the bad old days of fortnightly rep, John Osborne's autobiographical sketches on the mass of long-forgotten formula comedies about family reunions, *Season's Greetings* is Alan Ayckbourn's contribution to this humble form.

It is Christmas Eve. Uncle Harvey is slumped in the best armchair watching an old film on television. Belinda is decorating the tree while her husband looks after the drinks with a business cronch. Uncle Bernard is threatening to put on his annual puppet play. And you know it is only a matter of time before the festive facade begins to

crack. This being an Ayckbourn piece, there is no point in spilling any more of the plot. We are back in his middle-class family circle of neglected wives, self-preoccupied husbands and relatives with their problems and obsessive hobbies, where everyone hurts each other and nobody is to blame. What counts, as always, is the ingenuity of whatever new pattern he manages to weave from the familiar threads.

On these terms, the play is not in his top flight. He sets himself too main problems: how to write about Christmas without bringing children on, and how to release the anger of the frustrated ladies. He tackles the first by keeping the kids in bed and the second by allowing Belinda's sister Rachel to bring a young novelist, with whom she is slightly acquainted, to stay with the family. This is

an unlikely move, and as Clive the novelist is there mainly to arouse erotic interest and suspicion, he comes over as a blankly passive figure. Nigel Havers gives him a nice line in self-deprecating charm, but it is a rotten part.

Otherwise, Ayckbourn's production is a treat from start to finish. Its characters take on an ever-strengthening definition while simultaneously engaging in an increasingly concentrated action. The more imprisoned by events, the more free they become. To take one case, Peter Vaughan's Harvey has given all the children guns for Christmas. He is a former security guard and before long he resumes that role — officiously patrolling the landing during the intrigue-ridden hours of darkness, and finally pulling a gun on the departing Clive.

The night scene, in which Clive plausibly submits to an alcoholic wife, the virginal Rachel (Marcia Warren, choking back her venom with a bright smile), and finally Belinda, whom he really wants, brings the main comic explosion.

Irving Wardle

War Music

Warehouse

I suppose that the theatre started something like this millennia ago, with men declaiming fierce and magical incantations in a ring of rapt listeners. Christopher Logue has made these translations from the *Iliad* for the last 20 years. He and Alan Howard do not look in the least like those Alma-Tadema paintings of bards striking lyres and posing in front of audiences of genteel Victorian ancient Greeks. They make something older and wilder sing to us.

The poems fall into three parts. The oldest, written in 1962, is the killing of Patroclus from Book 16. Next is a conflation of blood and battles from Books 17 and 18, which Logue calls "GBH" or "grievous bodily harm". Finally comes "Pax", of Book 19, in which Achilles comes back into the war, and so Troy falls. They divided the lines about two-thirds to Howard and one-third to Logue. Howard's marvellously versatile organ of a voice did most of the gods and heroes; his gravel-voiced sorcerer's apprentice took narrative and clowns like Agamemnon.

The modern metaphors of rockets at Cape Kennedy or a man being speared as one detaches a sardine from a tin made one sit up; but so did Homer's contemporary metaphors jerk his audience back into the Bronze Age. And when Apollo strikes him a nuclear bomb or Achilles, riding to battle, says: "I know I will not make old bones", the hair at the nape of one's neck bristles. It was often as plain and

direct and noble as the real thing. They made a voice come alive after 30 centuries, two rather shabby, middle-aged men sitting at a table, standing up and pacing occasionally, and kept us on the edge of our chairs for two hours. Bentley said to Pope: "It is a pretty poem, Mr Pope, but you must not call it Homer." We did better than that on this occasion.

Philip Howard

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Gate, Battersea

How common it is I cannot say, but coincidence must be ruled out. After the first night of Lou Stein's brave adaptation of the drug-crazed novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, one of its creatures came drifting past the Gate Theatre on Battersea Park Road. A late-1960s Cadillac, wide and white with sharp, pointed fins, it was a most of the way. Lou Stein, Thompson called the Whites, while as it ferried him to a convention of narcotics officers, through a desert lake and to the casinos of Las Vegas. It certainly belonged there, probably investigating the treatment of the book.

The car or its driver would have found Mr Stein's handling extremely clever and sympathetic, a mix of the book's crystallized narrative and hallucinatory dialogue made game way for both action and reflection by dividing the Thompson character into two pieces. Mr Thompson himself invented an alter ego, a character

named Raoul Duke who ingested the immense quantities of illegal drugs, alcohol and other things that gave his pictures of Las Vegas a peculiar, warped clarity.

Cars and desert highways, the Vegas strip, hotel rooms and many other locations are folded neatly into the tiny theatre above the Lanchmere public house. Packed with the scenic tour is the book's mad humour, but its vital ingredient is missing. Mr Thompson writes like a demented angel, but he is a rioter as well and Stuart Fox is woefully tame as Duke.

Peter Marinker, as the narrating half, suggests more danger but the outside characterization of Duke's bizarre attorney, Chiswick, is the only thing that carries the threat and insights of the writing.

Ned Chaillet

● Noel & Gerie, Sheridan Morley's anthology based on the lives, letters, plays and songs of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, which had a one-night charity premiere at the May Fair last year, is to be seen at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, on February 14. It then plays for a week at the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Immediately afterwards, on March 1, it will be given at the Ambassador Theatre on Broadway, in a performance in aid of the American Actors' Fund, the first time they have invited an English company. Proceeds from this performance will also go towards the restoration of Coward's old home in Jamaica. Maria Aitken and Gary Bond play the title roles, and Alan Strachan produces.

Opera

Tensions of an empire in decline

Götz Friedrich's new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* in Stuttgart is a stimulating affair, but it stops well short of throwing the romance out of the window. He moves the story to the later days of the Habsburgs, giving a usually absent ring of chronological truth to the waltzes and hinting here and there at the nervousness of an empire in decline.

When the curtain rises the Marschallin has a look of post-sexual satisfaction: Octavian is exhausted beside her. A portrait of the Field Marshal glowers down. Part of the Marschallin's problem is clear. She has married a much older man. The Field Marshal, on the other hand, has possibly married beneath himself, for his wife can be sharp with servants in public, is not always sure of herself, is quick to anger.

At the end of Act I there is no business with the mirror. Instead, the Marschallin casts a fearful look around her boudoir, and leaves.

Silvio Varviso, whose conducting is one of the joys of the evening, is at his most sensitive at this point.

Friedrich's staging of Act III is original and effective. The rendezvous takes place in an ante-room off a festooned ballroom where couples in carnival costumes provide a dancing background. Ochs need not pay for the band after all. His horrors are gleefully manipulated by children in the attic above. For the trio, ante-room, ballroom and dancers fade, and the actors are alone on a candle-lit stage.

The Marschallin is Karen Armstrong, accurate in characterization according to Friedrich's realization, musically less convincing, with a tendency to start under the note and an occasional intrusive violato, and not always holding her own in ensemble. Octavian is seen as a recklessly primitive character, a gangling youth of gauche expression and

clumsy movement, transformed into manhood at a stroke by an ennobling new love. The gifted Doris Soffel sings and acts with fierce dedication. Baron Ochs becomes a lovable, teddy-bear landowner (Helmut Berger-Tuna), never cast down, off to tumble the next milkmaid when the game is up.

More traditional in conception is the new *Der Rosenkavalier* at Düsseldorf's Deutsche Oper am Rhein, directed by Otto Schenk. As ever, he moves events fluently. Yet there are times when he seems to be seeking something unsaid in his memorable Munich production of a decade ago, and the effect is sometimes effortful. This is most noticeable in the Marschallin's exit. In Munich, the Marschallin (Gwyneth Jones) broke our hearts by a simple tilt of the head and a hand outstretched momentarily for Octavian. At Düsseldorf, the Marschallin and Von Faninal go over to the lovers for elaborate hand-

shakes. The bitter sweetness of renunciation is blunted, and Von Faninal's "Sind halt so, die Junges Leute" and the Marschallin's poignant "Ja, ja" become pointless.

Judith Beckmann's Marschallin looks subtly young enough to fear the passing years, and is beautifully sung. Her Octavian is Trudelese Schmidt, ardent and impulsive, eloquently rich singing reaching its zenith in a strong line in the trio. Ochs (Karl Ridderbusch) is a pompous womanizer grabbing his last chance, disillusioned and suddenly aged in his dismissal.

It is in Hiroshi Wakasugi's conducting that the Düsseldorf production moves away from tradition, with the score treated almost in a chamber music style. The textures are transparent, detail which is often swamped is exposed, relevant motifs have a telling impact. It serves Von Hofmannsthal well.

Kenneth Loveland



Doris Soffel (left) and Karen Armstrong strongly characterizing at Stuttgart

Records

Gielgud revisits Brideshead

Next month Argo are transferring 30 items from their spoken word record catalogue on to cassette, together with six new recordings, two of which have been given a pre-release.

Sir John Gielgud, already well acquainted with *Brideshead Revisited* via Granada's magnificent television serialization, reads an abridged version of Evelyn Waugh's novel on SAY 1. The patrician tones, flecked with more than a little melancholy, fit the text ideally. There is one tiny blemish: the naming of the Sauternes Charles and Sebastian drink during that blissful May Day in Oxford — but for the rest it is an admirable reminder of the book.

Robert Hardy narrating four Sherlock Holmes stories (SAY 2), and not the best-known ones either, uses rather more characterization than Sir John. Again the diction is immaculate and the adaptation, which really

means abridgement, has been done with considerable skill. Both issues are good casual listening — in the car, in the kitchen perhaps or even as a cassette at bedtime. The packaging is spartan, but the price, at just under £6 for a double cassette, modest.

John Higgins

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# We need the universities — all of us

"Britain Needs its Universities." Well, surely, 10,000 car bumper stickers can't be wrong; there are supporting facts and figures, after all. Current demand for entry from 18-year-olds far exceeds the number of places available. While a continuing stream of new bankruptcies sadly underlines the depressed and depressing state of industry, the carner sectors continue to make challenging heavy demands on university research capacity.

Neither of these indicators need cause surprise. Where else, on the one hand, is the 18-year-old to look for the education and training to enter such professions as engineering, law, medicine, dentistry? Where else is industry to look for the basic research in pharmaceuticals or oil-rich technology or microelectronics? Industry's own labs cannot provide either the breadth of basic science or actually — the FR5-quality leadership.

Yet the universities are in the process of unprecedented contraction, the degree and time-scale of which are alike spectacularly dangerous. About one sixth of the provision is to be lost over the next two years. This means still fewer places for school-leavers; almost no openings for bright young scholars and scientists to contribute to our culture and scientific progress; a reduction of basic research activity below the level at which universities can contribute to industrial develop-

ment, and the loss of about 5,000 academic jobs.

But more: it also means that (through the scale and rapidity of the cutback) universities are finding it almost impossible to conduct the rational planning that would enable them to safeguard what is best, what is unique, what is most promising for the nation's future.

So who is raising the alarm? Many MPs. Many thoughtful industrialists. The universities themselves, of course: with the lively risk that their protests are put down to self-interest. But from the public at large there is remarkably little outcry. So if "Britain Needs its Universities", it would seem that Britain as a whole is curiously unaware of it.

"Oh, reason not the need," retorted King Lear, when he was told to make large-scale redundancies among his knights and squires. Well, clearly, we must reason it. Our universities cannot expect to thrive unless the public at large understands them enough to feel the need for them — and to feel this need to the extent of actually willing the huge resources required to pay for them.

Universities in this country are deeply vulnerable in being almost entirely dependent on indirect public support (through government funding) and in having done so little to make themselves attractive to direct public support. Not even the relatively small proportion of the population who have actually experienced university education



By Randolph Quirk

have developed a sense of individual, personal, financial responsibility for the universities that launched them into their careers.

The situation is very different in the United States, where alumnus support is not only a valuable way of maintaining a wide spread and continuing interest in a university, giving individuals a stake in its development: it is a financial sheet anchor. During the 1929 depression, it was on alumnus funds that the great American universities relied to maintain their excellence — and it was on the universities that the United States in no small measure relied to pull the country back into prosperity. If we in the British

universities cannot communicate our need to our own alumnus, how can we expect the general public to recognize the need?

Yet the slogan is not mere rhetoric and not mere self-interest. There is no member of the public who does not in scores of ways rely on the universities and their "products". Pervasively this is true of our entire culture, public administration, the media. It is true in respect of a vast range of industrial developments and social services.

If one had to pick out one single respect in which the public should see the need for universities, it would be health. Yet not even this is necessarily obvious. When some demo or other was in the news a while ago, a friend of mine heard someone say that students should be made to clean sewers. When asked if he would want his doctor to have had such "correction", the reply was, "What on earth have doctors to do with universities? They're trained in hospitals".

Well, of course, it's not just that every doctor has been a university student for five years: we simply do not realize how much of the actual treatment in our major hospitals is done by people engaged in university teaching and clinical research.

And if one had to pick out one single university that the public should feel themselves needing, it would be London. Not all that surprising, perhaps, since the University of London is so very much larger than any other and

has such an extraordinarily distinguished staff in its 50 colleges, schools and institutes.

I am not making a special case for making London a special case (though it certainly is). I am concerned only that the man in the street is apparently not concerned. Wherever he lives, there is a one-in-three chance that his doctor is a London product — a still better chance that his dentist is. Perhaps because of London's size and complexity, it is not universally known that places like "Barts" and "Guys" (which are universally known) are in fact part of London University.

Gower Street was a natural choice for filming *Doctor in the House*. When the Wolfson Foundation in 1981 set up a department for the prevention of blindness, it was equally a natural choice to place it in London University's Institute of Ophthalmology.

It is a matter of some urgency that the British people as a whole should recognize that they do indeed need their universities. Not simply as places where their sons and daughters can get degrees — though that itself is important enough. But as the power houses supplying our health services; generating fundamental work in engineering, science, management techniques, legal expertise; underpinning and sustaining what is most precious in our country.

Professor Quirk is Vice-Chancellor of London University.

## Divorce: why should a wife be the loser?

The Government is going ahead with reforms to the divorce laws which would curtail an ex-wife's right to indefinite maintenance. Penny Mansfield and Robert Chester argue why the proposal is open to question.

"Who is to bear the cost of the deadly combination of housewife-maintenance and serial polygamy practised by persons of modest means?" This is how a contributor to an international conference on the family law summed up the present debate on the financial consequences of divorce.

The courts are now dissolving one marriage in four, divorce is commonplace. Until recently though, family welfare provision and popular thought all saw the family in terms of life-long monogamy, nuclear, family households and orderly family careers. The explosion of divorce since the 1960s has thrown all this into disarray.

Alimony, the traditional remedy for breach of contract and at the moment judges are obliged to seek to put divorced parties in the position they would have been in had the marriages not ended.

The alimony principle has been attacked from several angles: it is anachronistic when divorce no longer rests on matrimonial fault or blame; it is not a practical possibility since many men default on maintenance payments; it produces hardship for divorced men and their second families; it ignores changes in the economic status of women and encourages notions of dependency.

Undoubtedly present policy is no longer appropriate but are the proposed reforms any more realistic relying as they do on the objective of self-sufficiency for divorced wives?

Advances towards sexual equality have not yet removed the economic disabilities of women. In comparison with men, women have lower earnings, more part-time work, more underemployment in relation to qualifications, fewer opportunities for training and promotion and find less encouragement in their upbringing and environment to accept such opportunities.

These labour market realities face all women but for divorced women they are compounded by economic handicaps which are rooted in a patriarchal structure which leaves the wife as a homemaker dependent on the breadwinner husband.

The Law Commission acknowledged that the prospect of marriage "can serve to influence a young woman's choice of career and accordingly her economic prospects". Early data from a study of newly-weds by the UK Marriage Research Centre shows just how true this is.

There is clear evidence of the priority which both husbands and wives give to the husband's job. Of 63 wives, 38 had changed jobs around the time of marriage. For 10 women getting married meant moving to a new area convenient for the husband's workplace, and making their journey to work impossible. Because of this three wives had become unemployed and three others were underemployed: one physics graduate, for example was working as a laboratory technician.

Like other research, the study shows that while most men and women say they believe that housework should be shared, it is the wife who actually does most of it, even though in the early months of marriage she is probably employed for the

same number of hours as her husband away from the home.

Where domestic needs conflict with employment it is the wives who cope by reducing job demands; husbands doing more housework is not seen as a serious solution. The husband might "help out" but he is encouraged to do too much lest it interferes with his work and because it is assumed that domestic responsibilities are ultimately the wife's. Five years later, already altered working hours to suit domestic needs and five more planned to change hours or jobs for similar reasons.

Nearly all the wives expected to leave their jobs during their first pregnancy, and do plan to return to work, even part-time, before the youngest child reaches school age. So they expect to be at home for at least five years and on the whole do not reflect upon their occupational prospects thereafter.

These young wives (all under 30 on their wedding day in 1979) did not explicitly perceive marriage as a secure and life-long career and yet, after only three months of marriage their work adjustments show a clear expectation of economic dependency, particularly while bringing up their children.

In spite of changes in the divorce law and the rhetoric of marriage, traditional patterns live on in contemporary new marriages. Although most brides work until their first pregnancy, they expect to spend several years exclusively involved in rearing children and tending the home while their husbands work to support the family. Existing employment structures do not allow much variation in the theme of housewife marriage.

While it is within the spirit of sexual equality to encourage wives to be economically independent of their husbands it is unsatisfactory that such fundamental change should be engineered through adjustments of the law on maintenance.

In the short term women may find themselves torn between accepting economic dependency while their husbands subsidize and preparing for self-sufficiency if it ends. In the long term, the impact may be felt by married men whose freedom to pursue their careers will be diminished when their wives, anxious not to jeopardize their own future prospects, refuse to give priority to their husband's employment.

Whatever the outcome these proposals highlight the confusion and irreverence surrounding public conceptions of marriage and the family. Mass divorce and the new nature of marriage produce the need for systematic consideration of existing law, employment practices and the labour market, child care systems and many other areas of social life which relate to the family.

The implementation of the proposals would continue a process of indirectly reforming the family by piecemeal means, creating new problems and the attempt to solve existing ones.

Penny Mansfield is Research Officer at the UK Marriage Research Centre, Central Middlesex Hospital, London. Robert Chester is Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Administration, University of Hull.

## Guess which urchin co-starred with Callas

Frank Johnson recalls an unforgettable night at Covent Garden 25 years ago

Experience has taught me that one interesting thing has happened to everyone, but only one. Politicians, most columnists and nearly everyone who appears on television are under the impression that everything that has happened to them is interesting. Such people are no exceptions to this remorseless law. Only one thing is likely to have happened to them too, if as many as that.

All of which is by way of being an overture to the announcement that the interesting thing that happened to me took place amid the fog of pre-Clean Air Act London 25 years ago this very night when I appeared with Maria Callas in the first of two performances at Covent Garden of Bellini's *Norma*.

The secondary school in Shoreditch of which I was an inmate happened to supply the human material for the children's parts at the Royal Opera House. The qualification for getting into this academy was stiff: one had to fail the 11 Plus. In my day one had to be almost feral to fail it. I shall always be grateful to my early teachers that I managed the feat.

Having won a place in the school, the privileged pupils discovered that, because the rehearsals took place during the day, if you volunteered for the opera, you got out of maths. On the strength of a few mid-1950s television productions, I disliked opera. On the strength of a few lessons, I feared maths. I volunteered for the opera.

My Covent Garden debut was in 1955 as one of the Nibelung dwarfs in *Das Rheingold*. We were required to screen the late Otakar Kraus, the greatest of Covent Garden Alberichs, cursed the gold. Over the next three years we were the urchins in Act One of *Carmen*, the urchins in Act Two of *Bohème*, the urchins in Act One of *Madama Butterfly*, the urchins in Act One and Two of *Otello*, and both Trojan and Carthaginian urchins at various stages of Berlioz's immense *The Trojans*, wearing in both Troy and Carthage, I seem to recall, the same costume. We were also the aristocratic officer cadets marching around the garden in St Petersburg in which is set Act One of Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*. In this latter role we were less convincing, the Shoreditch school being long on urchins and screaming dwarfs, but short on aristocrats.

It was extraordinarily casual. In some of these works we were required to sing. *Carmen*, after all, contains an urchin's chorus of some complexity. But of the vocal arts we were entirely deficient. We simply shouted with the utmost vigour, usually in English, such was Covent Garden's linguistic policy at the time, but in *Otello* in phonetic, cockney Italian. Happily, this dark era in Covent Garden's history has ended, and the school which provides the lads today achieves higher standards.

Early in 1957, we learned that there was an opera coming up which would require only two of us: *Norma*. Apparently the heroine of that name had two children whom she decides to stab to death, changing her mind at the last minute and opting instead for a duet with a mezzo soprano. I and a boy called Arthur were chosen. The choice was dictated by our height rather than innate musicality, which was just as well since no singing was required. Furthermore, Arthur and I had no history of artistic collaboration. Being even smaller than me, he was the one by whom I was always courageously refusing to be bullied.

I embarked on this memoir resolved to be honest, to tell only that which I could remember. So now the sad truth must be faced: this, the one moment of my life which makes me immortal, I can recall very little. Just a few images in my memory. For it was 25 years ago, and I was just turned 14. So today I never trust the childhood reminiscences of autobiographers.

I remember that there seemed to be something exciting and tense about the atmosphere in the weeks before the performance. Arthur and I were constantly



Norma, High Priestess of the Druids MARIA MENEGHINI CALLAS  
ADALISA, a virgin of the Temple ERE STIGNANI  
CLOTILDE, Norma's Confidante MARIE COLLIER  
The two children of Pollione and Norma ARTHUR MACKENZIE FRANK JOHNSON

Maria Callas as Norma at Covent Garden on February 2, 1957; and part of the programme that night

enjoined to be on our best behaviour, especially at the first rehearsal. At some point we must have learned that someone exceptional was involved, which meant someone with a foreign name. Hitherto, under the Covent Garden regime, the singers tended to have such names as Elsie Morrison and James Johnston, the latter a ringing Irish tenor who used to tell *Carmen*: "Carmen, oil never left your side." But we had been the choirboys whom Mr Tito Gobbi had terrified in Act One of *Tosca*, and he had seemed jolly enough, for he had fed us Italian gob-stoppers during a rehearsal and asked us about football.

Then, probably in the *Daily Mirror*, Arthur and I learned with some consternation that a woman was coming to Covent Garden who was known as the "Opera's Tigress." Furthermore, she had been in a storm in New York. She had got the sack for a baritone who had held

a final note longer than her in a duet.

The latter was untrue, as the books now make clear, but that was no good to Arthur and me at the time. This press sounded like trouble for us. I suppose this stage in her career, 1957, was the one in which Callas emerged into the consciousness of the masses. She still included "Meneghini" in her name, after the doddery industrialist of some antiquity whom she had married. But the liaison with Onassis lay only a matter of months away, as did Elsa Maxwell's ruinous seducing of her into international cafe society. By 1957 she had slimmed, but the voice, I now know from her recordings of the time, was still full. At 33, she was at her apogee.

As a result of the *Mirror*, household and neighbours were alerted. There was some doubt as to whether Norma was the name of the opera or the name of the great singer. "My boy's appearing with that Norma," my father would sometimes explain. By word of mouth down the street, this was occasionally transmuted into the Johnson boy appearing with Yana, a popular television artiste of the period.

Came the rehearsal. The late Christopher West, the producer, seemed nervous. An efficient looking woman came in wearing sculptured horn-rimmed glasses a tight black sweater, a green two-piece suit and stockings with black garters down the back to which were affixed stiletto heels in accordance with the

fashion of the day. (Pubescent boys take note of such details.)

"That's her," Arthur said. "Don't be bloody daft." I distinctly remember telling him. "That's West's secretary." But Arthur was right.

"These are the children," West said to the great soprano of the age. "They're a little big," she replied, speaking I recall with a sort of American accent. At this, West, a somewhat epicure figure, began to flap his wrists with some consternation. He gabbled something about younger ones not being allowed on stage under British law. Callas stared at us. Arthur and I covered. If this bitch gets the boot for baritones, what would she do to us, we no doubt pondered. I regret, in our rough way.

"I understand," Callas told West, who breathed again. But there was still trouble. It came, however, not from Callas but from the mezzo soprano, the late Elsie Stignani.

She was singing Norma's rival in love, the "young temple virgin Adalisa." Stignani was 53 at the time. I now know that she was a singer of much distinction. "Her acting was all in the voice," says my edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Opera*, which was just as well because she was a short, round woman with a terrifying face. "Not understand to him, Maria," she told Callas. "They're too bigga. Though I cannot claw the precise words back from memory."

Callas replied with something about even the great Stignani having to abide by the law. West giggles.

I forget the actual rehearsal. Indeed, the policy of honesty compels the admission that I remember little of the two performances themselves. But I do recall that when we emerged from Covent Garden underground station people were already at the barriers offering clusters of 5s notes for return tickets.

And I could not forget that when Callas bore down on us with the knife, her nostrils flared; that when, dropping the knife, she repitantly clasped her bosom, her perfume smelt like that of an aunt who was always kissing me; and that at the first performance on February 2 there penetrated into my left eye, the tip of the diva's right breast, which partnership remained throughout the subsequent duet with Stignani.

In that eye I felt the most distinct pain as that voice of myth and legend rose and fell. In the other eye, all I could see was the exit sign at the far corner of the gallery. At the second performance, I ducked and secured a safer refuge in a more central portion of the diva's bosom.

Furthermore, listening to the loudspeakers which carry the performance to the dressing rooms, I remember coming to the conclusion that the bloodthirsty chorus in Act One, *Dell'aura tua profetica, Terribil Dio, l'informa* ("Inspire her, O terrible God, with your prophetic spirit") was the same tune as *Over the Mountains, Over the Sea, That's Where My Heart Is Longing To Be*, to be incessantly heard at the time from Miss Anne Shelton.

And that is all. Still, there are a few men who can truthfully say that their eye made contact with the right nipple of Maria Callas. So it is not necessarily true that someone who has passed much of his adult life in the press gallery of the House of Commons has never glimpsed greatness.

## Fianna Fail helps Sile to her seat

More controversy for European MP Sile de Valera. Having been thwarted three times in her attempts to find a constituency in Eire's forthcoming general election, she has now been "imposed" in South Dublin by Fianna Fail's organization committee.

The grand-daughter of Ireland's founding father, Eamon de Valera, formerly represented a Co. Dublin constituency in the Dail, the Irish Parliament, but lost her seat in a big swing against Fianna Fail at last June's general election. She is one of four candidates to be "imposed" in constituencies throughout the Republic.

Mr Seamus Brennan a sitting Fianna Fail member for the South Dublin division, said yesterday he was "surprised and shocked" at the development.

Although still only 27, Miss de Valera has already had a career marked by a number of controversial outbursts. In November 1980, she described Margaret Thatcher's statements on the H block issue as "callous, unfeeling and self-righteous". She also accused the British Government of bungling and hypocrisy about human rights.

She has also criticized successive Fianna Fail leaders for their allegedly soft-line Republican approach, although his does not seem to have won her much grass root party support.



Sile de Valera: "imposed" in South Dublin

## Subbed out

Dog may not eat dog, but can still put the bite on pretty hard. The *Freelance*, the circular of the London freelance branch of the National Union of Journalists yesterday published the Street of Shame's own "list of shame" — a complete rundown of the 305 members who were lapsed from membership at the end of last year because their union dues were more than three months in arrears.

It was inexcusable, irresistible *schadenfreude* that made me pick on a couple of the better known names on the list. Bruce Page, editor of the *New Statesman*, was meekly contrite. "I should have paid my sub. They sent me lots of reminders, but I forgot. My

## THE TIMES DIARY

Half way through its 13th season, television's weekly potted biog show, *This is Your Life*, is still clocking up some fantastic viewing figures — 16 million is the average, and Anita Harris, first subject of 1982, drew a mammoth 19.3 million.

The secret of its success, according to its compare, Eamonn Andrews, is that it remains a friendly, show, topical to the extent that people in the news get a look in alongside the basically

showbiz element. It has a 24-hour staff of 20 and is recorded 24 hours before transmission. Hand on heart, Eamonn Andrews assures me there have been no refusals since Denny Blanchflower was the first subject. Richard Gordon said no but relented. And more recently a doctor whose dossier was being completed rang up to say his wife was in the process of having a nervous breakdown, so great was the strain of trying to keep it all secret.

They may fit him in next time round.

Roger Woddis, contributor to *Radio Times* and *Punch*, said: "I do believe in unity being strength. The last thing I want is to be struck off by the National Union of Journalists, though I only belong because there is not a National Union of Poets or of Sacred Scribes."

Regrettably, he doubted it was the most shameful thing he had ever done. "It reminds me of James Joyce in Trieste being approached by an old man who asked to shake the hand that wrote *Finnegans Wake*. Joyce thought, and then said: 'No, I think not. It's done a lot of other things as well.'"

## Bishop's move

Prebendary Michael Baughen, 51, a London clergyman, who has rewritten the Psalms to modern music and encouraged dance and mime in his church, is to succeed the Rev Victor Whitley, who had the reputation of being one of the Church of England's most conservative leaders, as the next Bishop of Chester.

The new bishop is at present rector of All Souls', Langham Place, a centre of the Anglican Church's evangelical movement and of innovation in worship and teaching.

Bishop Whitley, aged 65, who retired in December, was a leading supporter of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, an



And I also wanted to post a few letters...

opponent of the ordination of women, and two years ago ordered his clergy to wear their dog collars at all times.

Prebendary Baughen led the team which produced the best-selling worship book "Psalms Praise", which gives modern translations of the Psalms often to foot-tapping guitar rhythms.

He went to All Souls' — a Nash church close to Broadcasting House in 1970 — and was involved in raising £750,000 for a rebuilding scheme. The church was excavated below floor level to make an underground meeting hall, refectory and studios for the BBC which transmits the daily service from the church.

## Holmes for TV

Dame Jean Conan Doyle tells me she has sold the television rights for a series about the adventures of the illustrious Sherlock Holmes to the American film maker Sy Weintraub. Weintraub plans to make the £2m series mainly for American and British television with Otto Plaschke, the Austrian-born producer best known for *Georgy Girl*, *The Bofors Gun*, and *The Homecoming*.

Dame Jean, who was once an honorary ADC to the Queen, has insisted on guarantees that the series (no fewer than 26 parts will be filmed over the next three years) be faithful to her late father's work.

Though Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works are in public domain in Britain, they are not in the United States. Under new copyright laws there Dame Jean, 69, whose father died in 1930, has been able to extend the copyright up to 75 years from the date of publication.

She said: "I want people to appreciate my father's work in the original though I am aware there will be pastiches, often distasteful ones in this country. But I am happy about the plans for the television series."

## Food for thought

I suppose all those commercial attaches in our embassies abroad know what they are doing. But some of the information which they pass to the Department of Trade in the praiseworthy cause of assisting British food and

drink exports strikes me as distinctly run.

I can understand why Afghanistan wants more alcoholic beverages; presumably the Russians have long since drunk the vodka supplies dry. But are we really to believe that Australia is short of frozen seafood, that Australia needs more confectionery, and that Finland wants to buy herring fillets? What, might one ask, does Cyprus want with glace cherries and the Ivory Coast with cocktail snacks? And why, above all, is France crying out for baked beans?

## Good show

The company of *Good*, the last of Glasgow-born playwright Cecil F. Taylor's plays to reach London before his death in December, is to give a special benefit performance at the Aldwych Theatre on March 7 in his memory. The cast will be headed by Alan Howard who has been named Best Actor of the Year in the Standard, Drama and Society of West End Theatre Awards, for his performance in the RSC production of the play. Harry Secombe, Felicity Kendal, Jane Asher, Tom Conti and Gemma Jones are among those admirers of Taylor who have agreed to sell special souvenir programmes. The money raised from the performance will go to Taylor's family.

## Correction

My apologies for describing Lord Longford recently as an Anglo-Catholic. He is, of course, an English Roman Catholic.

Michael Horsnell





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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHO IS TO LEAD THE ALLIANCE?

Throughout last year the Social Democrats made a virtue of their collective leadership. How could one leader, it was asked, make an appearance in all the places where it was necessary to drum up support? How could one person take all the decisions required in setting up a new party? What an ingenious arrangement it was to have four leaders instead of one. Perhaps, it was even suggested on one occasion, this temporary convenience might be converted into a permanent system.

No longer. The Social Democrats have realized that they and the alliance will be at a disadvantage until they have agreed on a single leader. Mr William Rodgers has even proposed that they should dispense with the necessity of an election and agree among themselves that Mr Jenkins should be the parliamentary leader, and therefore the potential Prime Minister, and Mrs Williams the president who would lead the party in the country.

If only one candidate were to come forward for each of these posts that would be all right. But it is unlikely that that will happen, and it would be a grave mistake to take any steps that would prevent or deter anyone from offering himself or herself for the leadership. It would be a different matter if a defeated candidate were not to accept the verdict and were therefore to force a succession of leadership contests. It is that prospect that has attracted so much resentment to Mr Benn in the Labour Party. But when a new party is choosing its first leader there can be no question of disloyalty in anybody standing for election. The case for doing so is all the stronger when the candidate represents a distinctive point of view in terms of strategy and policy.

Considerable criticism in the SDP is directed towards the ambitions of Dr Owen. That he is ambitious is be-

yond question. But he does represent a different point of view from Mr Jenkins in two vital respects: he comes from the more radical sector of the party and he is more inclined to keep his distance from the Liberals. There is no good reason therefore why Dr Owen should not put his claim to the test. The same may be said of Mrs Williams, who may not represent such a distinctive viewpoint but who commands more affection within the party and among the general public.

But while Mr Rodgers may have recommended the wrong tactics, he is surely seeking the best outcome. Mr Jenkins would be the wisest choice as parliamentary leader of the SDP. He has a personal authority within the SDP that none of the other challengers possesses, and so would stand the best chance of leading a united party into the election. He has the stature to be recognized more easily than any of the others by the electorate as a potential Prime Minister; and he is the only person who would be generally acceptable to both Liberals and Social Democrats as the leader of the alliance.

This last consideration is critical. The question that will be asked increasingly of the alliance as the election approaches is whether it looks credible as a potential government. To answer that question satisfactorily the alliance must campaign as much as possible in combination, preferably with a joint manifesto and certainly having announced in advance of the election who would be Prime Minister of an alliance government. Partly because he believes in closer cooperation with the Liberals than do Dr Owen and probably Mrs Williams, and because he comes from an older generation, Mr Jenkins would be readily accepted as leader of the alliance by Mr Steel, who would not serve so happily under any other leader of the Social Democrats. Mr Steel

would himself have many supporters as alliance leader, among the general public and from the ranks of the SDP, as well as in the Liberal Party. But it would not be realistic at this stage to expect former Cabinet ministers easily to accept the leadership of a politician in another party who has never yet held office in any government.

Before Mr Jenkins could be elected parliamentary leader he would, of course, have to be in Parliament. The position at the moment is that the SDP is to hold at the end of next week a constitutional convention at which the draft constitution is to be amended and approved. It will then be sent for endorsement in a ballot of all members. In that ballot the members will be asked to choose between two alternative methods of electing the leader: by vote of the parliamentary party or by all the members of the party. As a matter of principle it would be better for the choice to be left to the parliamentary party. The cause of parliamentary democracy is not best served by transferring power away from Parliament to party activists in the country. But whichever method of election is preferred, it will be some months before the SDP can hold a leadership election.

That would give plenty of time for Mr Jenkins to take his seat if he is elected at Hillhead. If he is not elected there, his personal standing would be much diminished and his eligibility would depend on his winning another by-election before the leadership contest. That would be an uncertain prospect. But if he wins at Hillhead Mr Jenkins would be the best person for the Social Democrats and for the alliance. Despite all their difficulties over the allocation of seats, both the SDP and the Liberals would be wise to think of the alliance as well as of themselves. Together they will look a much more convincing proposition in the next election and beyond.

### Lay-off clause in union law

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, Your leading article of January 29 stated that the Employment Bill was flawed by the absence of a clause on lay-offs.

I have no doubt that the problem of strikes by strategically placed groups of workers, to which your proposal is addressed, is serious. But the suggested clause would do nothing to rid industry of a more insidious problem: the existence of the strike mentality. Strikes always involve a breach of contract. If all those at work are to be encouraged to honour their contracts it is hardly consistent to make an exception for employers.

The inclusion of a lay-off clause in the Employment Bill would do just that, because it would enable employers to break the employment contracts of their employees where their work had been halted through no fault of their own but as a result of a strike.

Our concern over your proposal also stems from a fear that it may prove divisive. If a strike takes place in the essential

services or amongst a small group of "key" employees, that is the time, in my experience, for the employer to harness the good will of the majority of his employees in order to overcome the problems. To lay off employees who may have had nothing to do with the original strike in order to minimize the costs of a dispute is likely only to create resentment against the employer and so damage industrial relations.

A better course, and one urged by many other representatives of business, would be to give some legal backing to procedure agreements. In this way parties to a dispute would be encouraged to reach a settlement within the framework of voluntary agreements, rather than to threaten the sanction of breach of contract.

An amendment is needed to the Bill, but it is more important that this should be related to procedure agreements than lay-offs.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER GOLDSMITH,

Institute of Directors,

116 Pall Mall, SW1,

January 29.

### How socialist is the SDP?

From the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Robert Lacey

Sir, Last March, disturbed by the way the Labour Party was being destroyed from within, we resigned to become chairmen and members of the South Hampshire Social Democrats.

We believed that the SDP would break new ground while continuing all that had been best in the tradition of Atlee, Bevan and Gansell, seeing it in David Cameron as a Labour Party mark 2, but a Labour Party mark 4.

From the beginning the SDP began to betray the hopes vested in it. The expensive national launch was full of swish PR and bland clichés. Once out of the Labour Party the Gang of Four began to move rapidly to the right. The commitment to equality, central to socialism, was soon compromised by the decision to retain the deeply divisive systems of private health and education. The long-held commitment to economic planning gave way to a rapid enthusiasm for a deodorized version of laissez-faire capitalism. Quickly, proposals were brought forward for far-ranging curbs on organized labour with no corresponding attack on business malpractices and Grounwick-type employers.

The commitments to social change turned into the belief that consensus and a cessation of political conflict would somehow bind up the wounds of a class-divided unjust society. Now that a nice class of person was taking charge, the wolf would lie down with the lamb and the child play on the hole of the asp.

One did not need David Owen to bring out a new cheap edition of his *Face the Future*, removing all the references to socialism found in the original, to know that betrayal was at hand. Soon at Crosby even Shirley Williams was campaigning without a trace of her former egalitarianism. For them all, "fame is the spur".

The SPD now stands clearly revealed as a middle-class, right-of-centre party. It most emphatically is not a social democratic

party in the historical usage of the term or by comparison with the social democratic parties of Sweden, Germany or Austria. No democratic socialists can support it without denying or repudiating the heritage they bring from the past. Neither of us will be renewing our membership.

How tragically sad that while the Labour Party is still infected by the intolerant extremism of a hard left wholly alien to its traditions, the SDP should turn out to be a fraud and a delusion.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN CAMROUX,

ROBERT LACEY,

18 Wilton Court,

Shirley,

Southampton.

From Mr Martin Stevens, MP for Fulham (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Tony Benn claims that the Social Democrats are a party of the far right.

He need have no fears. In 120 important parliamentary divisions between April, 1981 and January, 1982, the SDP supported the Government only once (last July, over the European Community Budget). They abstained in nine votes, and were split in five.

They joined Mr Benn and the Labour Opposition in the lobby 105 times.

Yours truly,

MARTIN STEVENS,

House of Commons,

January 30.

From Lady Jeger

Sir, I see from your columns of January 26 that the Social Democratic Party has launched a "think tank" to be called The Tawney Society.

I suppose this means that members of the SDP think well of R. H. Tawney. But what, I wonder, would Tawney think of them?

Yours truly,

LENA M. JEGGER,

House of Lords,

January 28.

### Mixed fortunes

From Professor S. Rees Jones

Sir, The continuing controversy (Letters, January 20, 23) over the authenticity of the "Fortune Teller" attributed to Georges de la Tour, which the BBC intend to include in their 100 Great Paintings series, clearly indicates that stylistic and art historical criteria alone fail to provide a conclusion acceptable to all. It might be thought (and this seems to be in the mind of the supporters of the attribution) that the scientific examination of the materials and the painting technique would resolve the problem, but a critical reading of the technical communication from the Metropolitan Museum yields little reassurance.

We read for example that two tests based on the isotopes of lead were applied to the white lead paint; the one is admitted to be inconclusive, while the other "authenticity of the painting, but does not provide definite proof". In fact, the value of the isotope ratio found is on the borderline of acceptance for a pre-1800 date but well within the statistics for post-1800. Another sample was submitted to a test (Differential Thermal Analysis) which gives

data on age over the first 100 years or so of the life of a layer of linseed oil paint. The answer was: "more than 100 years". But when the possibility of out and out forgery is taken into account of the contenders it is necessary first to establish that nothing has been introduced into the paint to stimulate hardening due to age. There is no mention of such an analysis.

The report includes a reproduction of the X-ray photograph of the painting and an interpretation which, curiously, does not refer to what seems to be a fragment of another composition beneath the Fortune Teller thus suggesting that it was painted over a fragment of an old canvas, a not uncommon feature of forgeries.

The above comments are directed at the report's selective use of scientific evidence, only one item of which favours the painting (the presence of a yellow pigment thought to have become obsolete during the eighteenth century) and not in any way at the painting which I have never seen.

Yours faithfully,

S. REES JONES,

14, Grosvenor Gardens,

Pall Mall, SW1,

January 27.

### Lessons from Lutyns

From Mrs Margaret Richardson

Sir, The Lutyns "debate" is not quite as straightforward as Charles Mc... describes ("Lutyns: a chequered career", January 13). Both Mr McKean and the "motley gang of revisionists" he refers to are equally misguided.

The principal organizers of the Lutyns exhibition certainly did not intend to use the opportunity to point a way forward for architecture or to designate the "heroic period" of the Modern Movement. But it does seem that it is only architectural journalists and some architects over 45 who continue to have any consistent interest in the theories of that movement.

Younger architects turned to other ideas some years ago, and it was because architectural students were taking such an interest in Lutyns and the period around 1930, as well as in a mixed bag of historical styles, that it was felt appropriate to hold a major exhibition of his work. If anything it was too late.

The Architectural Association, for example, has been holding weekly lectures on Lutyns for the past two years: well attended by both students and the profession.

But this is not to imply that younger architects are rushing to present in revivalist styles with methods taken from the Arts and Crafts movement. What they crib from the past are random ideas and details absorbed into a mish-mash of what they already know, and, when executed, their buildings are utterly "modern" in technique and conception.

Lutyns's work, particularly, is stimulating as his early vernacular houses are freely composed and very inventive. His Georgian houses are not popular at present in revivalist styles with the checker-board housing in Westminster is rather admired. What is happening in architecture is a complex and subtle development that builds upon the achievements of the Modern Movement.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET RICHARDSON,

64 Albert Street, NW1,

January 14.

### Prospects for an Ulster Assembly

From Professor Cornelius O'Leary

Sir, David Watt (feature, January 29) is the latest in a long line of commentators to pontificate about the Northern Ireland situation. It would be well if his knowledge of the subject matched his self-confidence.

In estimating the likely results of an election to an Assembly in the province, if such a device (as is generally believed) were to form part of the Peace Initiative, Mr Watt produces the following "illustrative guesses": expressed in percentages of votes: DUP (Paisleyite) 31, OUP (Official Unionist) 26, SDLP (Catholic) 26, Alliance (Nonconfessional) 11, Stun Fein 6.

By contrast with these figures, out of the top of Mr Watt's head, your readers might be interested to peruse the following percentages of votes cast in the last elections held in the province, the local elections of May, 1981: DUP 26.6, OUP 26.5, SDLP 17.5, Alliance 8.9, Workers' Party 1.8, other republican groups 5.2, Independent and others 8.2. (Source: Elliott and Fry, *Smith's Northern Ireland: the District Council Elections of 1981*, Queen's University, Belfast, 1982).

In these results the DUP/OUP together got 53 per cent, not the 57 per cent that Mr Watt would give them. This combination is sufficiently below the proposed executive "trigger" of 60 per cent to produce a manageable result.

Mr Watt also derides those "wishful thinkers" who believe that "the Protestants in an independent Northern Ireland could be restrained from abuse of their position by remote control of a financial kind from London". Those Protestants in the Northern Ireland Assembly who collaborated with the Catholic members in the Executive of January to May, 1974, far from attempting to abuse their position, worked loyally and honourably together.

The downfall of the Executive was largely due to external factors: Mr Heath's springing a general election in February, 1974, and the failure of the then Government of the Republic to make any move to satisfy Unionist opinion — a failure for which Dr Garret Fitzgerald later publicly expressed regret.

Yours etc.,

CORNELIUS O'LEARY,

Department of Political Science,

The Queen's University of Belfast,

January 29.

### Housing policy

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, Mr M. Weale's attack on council housing (January 28) and his assertion that we should give it away to convert the nation into owner occupiers entirely misses the point of the present debate.

Firstly, Mr Weale wants to make available the financial benefits of ownership to all. But those benefits accrue to the owners of the property, not to the tenants. The absurdly privileged tax position of home ownership, not just in relation to other housing tenures, but in relation to other forms of productive investment. These privileges encourage some people to consume more housing than they need and ensure that ever larger sums are taken up on behalf of an exchange process not a productive one. Because of the need for more investment those privileges must be reduced and with them the attractions, to some extent, of home ownership.

Secondly, Mr Weale's comparison is between home ownership and public renting. The real dilemma is that the tax exemptions provided for home ownership, undermine any sort of renting, public or private. The reasons why that is undesirable is

that renting provides an entirely sensible and worthwhile option for many people at different stages of their lives. Young, mobile people, elderly people who do not wish to have to maintain their own homes, people on low or variable incomes. A proper system of renting, which cannot exist until the financial benefits of owning and renting are evened out, would allow such tenure subsidies to develop different but equally worthwhile characteristics.

Finally, the significance of Mr Weale's letter is entirely undermined by his dubious use of figures. He quotes the rise in council subsidies between 1970 and 1979 yet, on the one hand, subsidies have fallen rapidly in the past three years and, on the other, the 1970s subsidy burden was a temporary one caused by the heavy concentration of costs at the beginning of the repayment period which was the result of rapidly rising interest rates.

Yours faithfully,

NEIL MCINTOSH,

National Campaign for the Homeless,

157 Waterloo Road, SE1,

January 29.

existing main hall, leading to new galleries set at an angle to Waterhouse's plan, seems as unnecessary as it is inappropriate.

Let us hope that the trustees and the Government, who are planning to spend £18m on this unsympathetic scheme, will have second thoughts about Waterhouse's masterpiece before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN HOWARD,

Chairman of the Historic Buildings Panel,

WILLIAM BELL,

Secretary to the Historic Buildings Panel,

Greater London Council,

County Hall, SE1,

January 27.

### Natural anxiety

From Councillor Norman Howard

From Councillor William Bell

Sir, It is no secret that representatives of the present Labour GLC administration and the previous Conservative administration at County Hall sometimes hold different opinions. However, regarding the future of the Natural History Museum we are as one.

We consider that the destruction of nearly a third of this grade I listed building, with a floor area greater than that of Westminster Abbey, including seven exhibition galleries, would be a gross act of vandalism. The latest proposal to place a triangular foyer next to the splendid

existing main hall, leading to new galleries set at an angle to Waterhouse's plan, seems as unnecessary as it is inappropriate.

Let us hope that the trustees and the Government, who are planning to spend £18m on this unsympathetic scheme, will have second thoughts about Waterhouse's masterpiece before it is too late.

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### The buyer's premium

From the Secretary of the London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association

Sir, The irony of Lord Westmorland's contention (January 19) that retention of the buyer's premium is essential to the maintenance of the art market is the centre of the art market is that only two years previous to Sotheby's and Christie's introducing the premium these same firms had been active in persuading the Treasury that the imposition of VAT on (trade) auction sales would so discourage buyers that that position would be undermined.

Why 10 per cent payable to the auctioneers should be beneficial to the maintenance of that position but 10 per cent (as the VAT rate originally was) payable to the Revenue disastrous remains something of a mystery. It cannot be anything to do with the consequential smaller commission charged to vendors for Lord Westmorland accepts that buyers can discount the premium.

Contrary to Lord Westmorland's view that they rarely do so, it is our belief that, at any rate as far as dealers are concerned, they almost invariably have to do so: after all they have to make a

### The last farewell

From Mr Nigel Rees

Sir, Your reporter (January 28) may not have been in a position to verify his references but those of us who care about such things believe that Beachcomber (J. B. Morton), not "some anonymous wit", deserves the credit for that felicitous line about "the bourne from which no Hollingsworth returns".

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL REES,

86 Woodstock Road, W4,

January 28.

### Proper names

From Mr Edmund ESDAILE

Sir, One of the more eccentric postbags is, or at least used to be, that received at the British Museum, of which my father was secretary. He periodically enveloped us at home with examples and after some 50 years I recall that of an inattentive Canadian typist who, having obviously misheard the word Curator, produced, both on the letter and on its enclosing envelope, this address: The Creator, The British Museum, London. The Post Office duly delivered it, forgoing any comment or emendation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDMUND ESDAILE,

53 Surrenden Road, Brighton.

From Sir John Ackroyd

Sir, Before Christmas I received a prospectus inviting me to subscribe to a course in "The Use of Modern English". Study paper 9 in the prospectus covered "Letter writing" and correct forms of address.

The envelope was addressed to Mr J. A. Bart.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ACKROYD,

43, Lansdowne Crescent, W11.

### Mapping for the future

From Mr John Wright

Sir, The fundamental weakness of the argument put forward in

your leading article (January 20) and by General Edge (January 27), that the Ordnance Survey could never pay for itself, is the failure to distinguish between the quite different functions, users, and distribution of the medium-scale contour maps (at 1:10,000 scale and smaller) and the 200,000 or so very large scale uncoloured plans. The maps very nearly pay for themselves; the plans "lose" £20m a year. Similar maps are found in most developed countries; but the large-scale plans and their dense supporting framework are almost unique, being replaced elsewhere by individual title surveys and plans made by private licensed surveyors.

Nearly everybody uses the maps in one way or another, for walking, motorcycling, science teaching, police work and general administration; but to a very large extent the plans are only large by specialist professionals. Who, for example ever saw in real life or on television a policeman using a basic large-scale plan? The maps can be bought in any stationers; the plans can only be obtained from Ordnance Survey agents; and most of the specialist users make their own copies under licence. The main users are engineers, lawyers, architects, planners, estate agents, and of course HM Land Registry, in the planning, management, and transfer of landed property. The copyright fees form a negligible part of their budgets.

As Sir Dennis Filcher said in his letter to you of September 9, 1981, which has not been contradicted, these professionals are quite prepared to pay more; and I understand that this view is supported by the Standing Committee of Professional Map Users, who are more worried about a possible lowering of standards. Revenue would of course then depend on the amount of use; but the Land Registry seems to manage quite well on income from the varying flow of property transactions — and because it does not pay the full cost of the basic plans it uses every day.

We are all agreed that now we have this system it would be madness not to keep it in good order, even though other countries manage without it. But it need not be subsidised by the taxpayer, because the cost could be met out of increased copyright fees from its users, in the same way that the other national maps are paid for by those who use them. Whether we should do this is of course a political question; but it is misleading to say that it could not be done.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WRIGHT,

Webbs Farmhouse,

Chesham Road,

West Wittering,

Chichester,

West Sussex,

January 28.

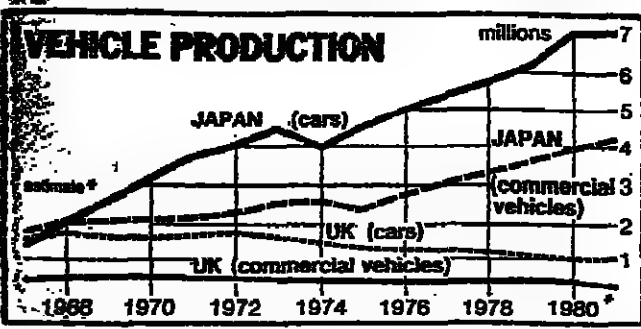






## BUSINESS NEWS

### More Japanese cars



Japan's 11 car makers say production targets for 1982 will boost output by 4.6 per cent to 11.69 million cars and commercial vehicles, more than half of them for export. Due to voluntary export restraint to the United States and European Community countries, exports are expected to be 6.11 million vehicles, only a 1.3 per cent increase on 1981's total.

### Talbot call for subsidy

Talbot Cars in Coventry has asked the Government for a subsidy to save the jobs of the 1,900 workers at its engine-building plant. The workers have been laid off for the last six weeks because of troubles in Iran which hit Talbot's work on a valuable contract. They have now been given nominal 90-day redundancy notices which will be withdrawn if Government funds are made available.

Meanwhile another 1,500 workers at the company's Ryton assembly plant returned today after being laid off for a fortnight.

### Timex ticks for \$125m

Timex Corporation, which manufactures the Nimslo 3-D camera at its plant in Dundee, has agreed to buy 800,000 of the cameras worth \$125m in return for distribution rights in the United States over the next two years. Timex will also take over all warranty obligations for the cameras in the United States, marketing, advertising and promotion of the camera will remain in the hands of Mr Corvin Cianci, Nimslo's executive vice president in charge of worldwide marketing, who was formerly responsible for Polaroid's marketing programme. Shares of Nimslo International on the United Securities Market rose 7p to 150p on news of the deal. The Nimslo camera has been the subject of concern following the disclosure last November the Dr Jerry Nims, one of the company's joint founders, had disposed of his personal shareholding in the company.

### Marry for money

Young married couples are being offered a year's free banking, personal loans at reduced rates, free mortgage valuations, commission-free foreign currency and travellers cheques for the honeymoon, a discount on the subscription to the British United Provident Association and advice on insurance and making a will in the latest drive by Barclay's Bank to attract new business.

### More spent

Food advertisers increased their spending on television and in the consumer press by almost a third in 1981 to \$309.9m according to figures compiled by Media Expenditure and Analysis, the research company. Financial advertising increased by 44 per cent to \$132.3m. The MEAL list of top advertising agencies was headed by J. Walter Thompson, followed by Saatchi & Saatchi, Garland-Compton,

## Unions sound warning on gas prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices to industry could rise by 60 per cent as a result of the Government's plans to end the British Gas Corporation's monopoly power over North Sea gas, leading trade unionists claimed yesterday.

The warning was given after a 90-minute meeting at the Energy Department at which members of the TUC's fuel and power industries committee told Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, of their "root and branch" opposition to the Government's North Sea gas privatisation Bill, being considered by Parliament.

The Bill is designed to pave the way for the sale of shares in the British National Oil Corporation later this year, as well as the ending of British Gas' monopoly purchase powers and the sale of its interests in several North Sea oil fields.

Mr John Edmonds, national officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, said allowing oil companies to sell North Sea gas direct to industrial customers was likely to lead to "a massive increase" in industry's fuel bills.

Prices could rise from their present levels of between 25p and 30p a therm to between 40p and 50p a therm over the next few years. There would probably be a knock-on effect on domestic gas prices too, it was claimed.

Mr John Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said it was inconceivable that companies such as Shell, Esso and

British Petroleum would have been pressed for the ending of the monopoly simply in order to achieve lower gas prices.

Mr Lawson, however, told the union delegation that he expected gas prices to fall rather than rise, as a result of introducing competition into the North Sea gas market. He said that there was no intention of allowing North Sea gas to be exported, and the Government had powers to prevent this happening.

The TUC leaders denounced all the main features of the North Sea Bill, which is now in committee stage in the House of Commons. They said it had no "logic on energy grounds".

They also attacked the privatisation of BNOC, which said they could lessen the public's control of North Sea oil. Ending the gas monopoly could also hit sales of electricity and coal.

The Chemical Industries Association, one of the leading campaigners for the ending of the British Gas' monopoly purchase powers, last night also criticized the union leaders' claim that industrial gas would rise.

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### Moran man presses Lloyd's case

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr Reid Wilson, the Lloyd's underwriter whom the ruling committee is trying to expel from membership of the insurance market, is now trying to force Lloyd's to put his case to a vote of members as soon as possible.

Mr Wilson formerly connected with the Christopher Moran Group, was found guilty of "acts and defaults discreditable to him as an underwriter" by arbitrators under the insurance market's disciplinary procedures. To expel him Lloyd's needs a four-fifths vote in favour of expulsion at a special meeting called under Section 20 of the 1871 Lloyd's Act, but the ruling committee has said it wants to delay this meeting until after the outcome of Mr Christopher Moran's arbitration case, due to start on July 12, is known.

Mr Wilson, who says he has not worked since last June, has sent Lloyd's a letter requesting an extraordinary meeting with 27 signatories including 17 internal and external Lloyd's names. Under the by-laws any member can requisition an extraordinary meeting with 16 signatories.

Mr Wilson said that if his case was not put to members until after the Moran hearing, part of the battle is until the end of October at the earliest.



Development cash call

The Asian Development Bank hopes to raise at least \$700m (£375m) this year, mainly on the bond market. Mr Masao Fujioka, its president (above), said yesterday. The Asian Development Fund, part of the bank, is also looking for \$4,100m during the four years from 1983. Mr Fujioka said he would like to mobilize more private funds in cooperative ventures. But he admitted: "To be frank we are not keeping up with the expectations of the Asian people. The bank is owned by 44 members and outstanding loans total \$10,000m.

### Ronson appeal in ACC takeover battle

## Holmes à Court losing initiative

By Our Financial Staff

There is a growing feeling in the City that Mr Robert Holmes à Court may have lost the initiative in his bid to take over Associated Communications Corporation.

After setting up a considered and seemingly bullet-proof offer he may be prepared to listen to an arrangement on the sale of his 22 per cent of the votes and the 51 per cent of the ACC non-voters. He had already said the shares were not for sale, but added that it would be silly to add: "not at any price".

His arch-rival, Mr Gerald Ronson, of Heron, had once again been a quick victory for The Australian financier's \$36m takeover bid for ACC by lodging an appeal in the High Court yesterday.

His Heron Corporation is attempting to overturn a decision last week by Mr Justice Vinelott which said the ACC directors did not breach the company's Articles of Association or their fiduciary duty by effectively agreeing a shut out offer from the Australian financier.

It is believed that Heron has lodged the appeal, likely to take two or three days and could start this week, with reluctance.

Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling produced a chink in the apparently solid Holmes à Court armour by saying the deed under which London Broadcasting Authority (LBA) conditional approval would have been given, was invalid.



Holmes à Court: Ready for offer?

cannot register them without IBA approval. The remainder have been promised to the Holmes à Court bid, and are his once the offer becomes unconditional.

In the High Court last week he hinted that he would release the ACC directors from their irrevocable undertakings under certain circumstances. It was a carefully worded statement but left most in doubt as to what the circumstances might be.

Mr Holmes à Court has now left ACC's Marble Arch head office. In charge is one of his close aides, Mr Bert Reuter. Mr Holmes à Court, the new chairman and chief executive of ACC who is also fighting a takeover battle in Australia, departed suddenly on Friday. His office said he is due to return a week on Monday.

That is the day the Post Office pension fund are due to return to court for the full hearing of its opposition to the £750,000 golden handshake package proposed to Lord Grade's former right hand man, Mr Jack Gill.

His return date is also on the eve of a special shareholders meeting, already adjourned twice, to vote on Mr Gill's payoff.

That is also the time around which, under the takeover rules, the deadline by which Mr Holmes à Court's formal offer document should have been sent to shareholders.

### Support costs oil companies £500m

## Petrol prices tumble

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Although the petrol price war is now costing the petrol makers almost £10m a week in various financial support measures to petrol retailers, forecourt prices in some parts of the country are expected to slide further.

Few petrol stations outside rural areas are now charging more than £1.60 a gallon for four-star and prices in many areas are drifting nearer to £1.50.

The number of towns and cities with prices below £1.50 is growing, led by traditionally competitive locations such as Manchester, the Leeds-Bradford-Sheffield area, Walsall and various parts of Kent including Canterbury.

There are signs that prices in Bristol will drop below £1.50 a gallon soon. London prices vary between £1.50 and £1.60 a gallon.

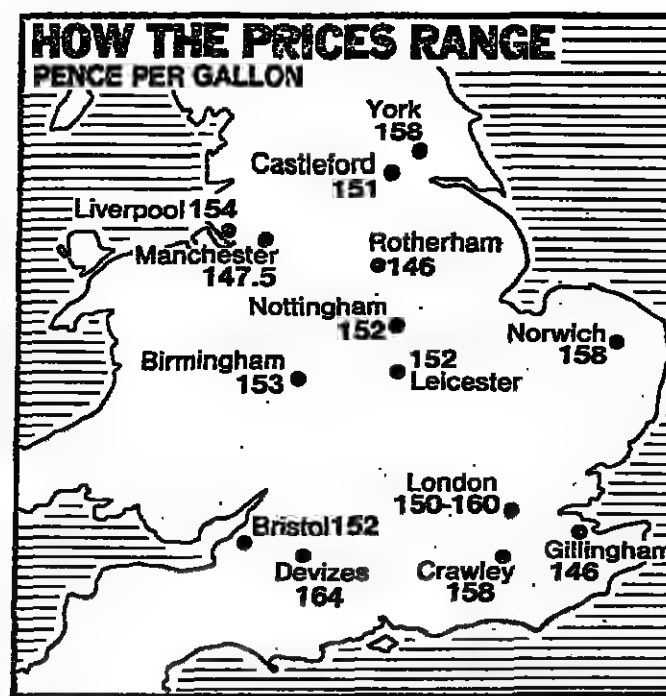
At Norwich-based Mann Egerton, which has a chain of outlets mainly in the Norfolk area, Mr Jamie Campbell, forecourt general manager, said prices seemed to drop virtually every other day in the latter half of January.

Prices vary widely in various parts of the country mainly because of the tempo of local competition. A big influence in Bristol, for example, is the low-pricing policy of the Carrefour supermarket on the motorway network just outside the city.

A potent factor in Manchester area and on Merseyside is the price-cutting of Telegraph Service Stations, the second largest national chain of independent petrol retail outlets.

But at present any price below £1.70 a gallon represents mostly support from the big oil companies.

Some companies offer temporary wholesale price



reductions while others guarantee a minimum margin to retailers. The various forms of support are now costing the companies the equivalent of £500m a year, according to the Motor Agents Association, the trade body for petrol retailers.

Nobody in the industry seriously quarrels with this estimate which means that Esso, Shell and BP (including National), each with about 20 per cent market share, could be facing support bills of up to £2m a week.

Petrol prices, which had then been rising to £1.70 and above, started to ease as long ago as last September. Support from the first of the MAA's manufacturers started in October.

Behind the price war are several factors. There is an excess of refinery capacity in Britain. Petrol sales are down, with the hard winter intensifying the slide, forcing the companies to compete hard even to hold their share of the shrinking market.

The oil companies also have a buying advantage with sterling stronger against the United States dollar in which both oil and refined products are denominated.

The big oil companies see the role of the spot market in Rotterdam, source of supply for the smaller independent retailers via some 25 wholesalers, as a key factor in fuelling the price war.

But this sector accounts for barely 3 per cent of the petrol market, according to the MAA.

More smaller independent retailers are expected by the MAA to be driven out of business.

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## Fisons sells off fertilizer division

By Rupert Morris

Fisons is selling its agricultural fertilizer business to Norsk-Hydro, of Norway, for £50m, subject to the approval of both boards and shareholders, the company announced yesterday.

Its fertilizer business may have made Fisons an international name, but for the past two years it has also been losing the company money. The division lost £1.1m before tax on a turnover of £1.8m in 1980. News of the sale sent Fisons' shares up 30p to 210p, and company sources were confident that the proceeds would enable Fisons to wipe out many of its financial commitments, and concentrate on the main growth sectors of its business, headed by drugs.

Fisons' fertilizer division, based in Felixstowe, Suffolk, with plants at Birmingham and Ayrmouth, has about 25 per cent of the United Kingdom compound fertilizer market, and 15 per cent of nitrogen fertilizers.

ICI, which claims about 50 per cent of the United Kingdom fertilizer market, which is worth in total between £700m and £800m made public comment but was understood not to expect any big change in the industry.

Norsk-Hydro has promised to employ about 2,800 fertilizer division employees, and to honour all contracts.

Mr John Kerridge, of Fisons, chief executive said: "The fertilizer business will be in good hands as Norsk-Hydro has a strong commitment to agricultural fertilizers."

"Norsk-Hydro will also be an effective competitor alongside ICI and that is good news from the consumer's point of view."

The rest of Fisons' 7,500 employees work in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and scientific equipment with a further 2,000 employed in a joint agrochemicals venture with Boots. Fisons says the £50m from the sale should secure the future of these other sectors.

The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.

## French prices warning

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in Paris yesterday that the French economy's new economic policies was uncertain and higher wages could push up prices.

Despite recruitment incentives and government moves to increase production, unemployment of the French stabilized until the second half of this year, when it would affect about 6.5 per cent of the workforce, it said.

The comments were made in the OECD's first full assessment of the French economy since the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand came to power last June.

Mr Mitterrand pledged to reduce unemployment, which topped two million last October, by creating new jobs, and to revive growth by loan injections.

OECD experts, reviewing the short-term prospects, said unemployment may steady during 1982 and inflation may slow slightly compared with the second half of last year. France's external deficits will probably remain substantial.

"This type of performance is definitely not entirely satisfactory," they said.

However, the OECD said this outlook should be compared with the trend in the 12 months up to mid-1981.



Brock: America cannot and will not reflate

## US rules out drop in interest rates

The United States will not act to lower its interest rates to alleviate world unemployment, Mr William Brock, the United States trade representative, said in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday.

The United States interest rates and their effect on other nations' economies were discussed during the weekend at an informal European management symposium of industry and economy ministers from 20 countries.

"But we cannot and shall not reflate," Mr Brock told newsmen, adding that to do so would lead to a resurgence of the United States inflation.

Last Friday, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, appealed to the United States to lower interest rates, indicating there was a link between them and unemployment in the West.

Mr Brock urged the West to restrain the transfer of technology to the Soviet Union and reconsider whether large credits should be granted to Eastern Europe. He said that West European countries should have looked at alternatives such as coal imports from the United States before going ahead with contracts for the supply of gas from the Soviet Union.

Sales of high technology to the Soviet Union had served to increase its military capability, nullifying increased Western spending on defence, he said.

Restraint in this area would be more effective as a means of pressure in response to martial law in Poland than a ban on the United States exports of grain to the Soviet Union, he added.

The Reagan Administration has been criticised in Europe for failing to halt grain shipments while pressing Europeans to refrain from agreements which would make them dependent on Soviet gas for their energy needs.

Mr Brock's comments, indicating that America will continue to give priority to its domestic goals, gave further support to foreign exchange markets yesterday, which mounted that the Federal Reserve may allow United States interest rates to rise in response to the recent high level of monetary growth, John Whitmore writes.

The United States currency moved above DM2.35 briefly before closing 4.45 pence higher in London at DM2.3448. Sterling held up rather better than most currencies, finishing 1.95 cents lower at \$1.8615. Its trade weighted index against a basket of currencies closed 0.2 higher at 91.8.

Eurodollar interest rates were generally at least half a per cent higher in European trading.

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## Daily Mail and General Trust PLC

### Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

This last year has seen the full effect of recession on industry both in this country and abroad. Inflation here has moderated but real interest rates, particularly in North America, have achieved an historic high level.

Against this background it is pleasing to be able to report that, disregarding the special dividend from Shell received at the very beginning of our previous financial year, our gross Revenue this year from our general portfolio has been more than maintained and net Revenue after expenses and taxation at £2,058,000 shows only a small decrease.

You will notice in the Directors' Report that the Company is now considered to be a close Company for the purposes of taxation. In consequence, the Board intend to distribute materially all of the Company's Revenue after taxation.

After provision for the Preference Dividend, earnings for the year were 30.2p per share (against 31.9p per share last year, of which 1.5p per share was special) and the Board is, therefore, recommending a total distribution on the Ordinary and 7K Ordinary Shares of 30.0p per share, against 27.5p per share last year.

In the last twelve months we have seen the rate of inflation decrease, but now tend to increase again; nevertheless, the world wide recession and high interest rates have allowed no easing of the pressures on profits; happily exports from the United Kingdom

have continued at a high level.

It is the North American economy, now itself in recession, which has most effect world wide, and the high interest rates there have strengthened the dollar by some 20%, which has helped industry here in its drive for exports, conversely the stronger dollar has meant greatly increased costs to our Associated Company as an importer of newsprint. It has meant also that there has been no relief on the cost of borrowing money, even though industrial stocks are now at much lower levels, and no help to the Gilt Edged market.

During this last year we have realised the Government Stocks held, and we have taken out of the portfolio companies which it seemed likely the recession would affect the most. We have continued to invest more abroad and, from the Balance Sheet, you will see that at the year end we had considerable funds, both in Sterling and Dollars, awaiting the opportune time for investment.

The coming year must inevitably be one where income growth is likely to mark time, but I am hopeful that industry is now in a much better shape to take advantage of the upturn, of which there are just first signs. We believe the shape of our portfolio will allow us to reap full advantage of the recovery when it happens.

### MARKET SUMMARY

#### Profit takers move in

#### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 572.0, down 7.8  
FT 100 54.65, down 0.55  
FT All Share 327.83, down 3.10  
Bargains 20,899

All eyes remained fixed on Wall Street yesterday with the London market dismayed at the latest set of United States money supply figures.

The appearance to have ended, for the time being, last week's optimism about a Wall Street revival and has left economists undecided about which way United States interest rates will move next.

So equities decided to play it safe, and with two weeks of the account left to run, profit takers were abundant. The FT Index, which last week came under a break in its all-time high, closed







BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

A peer's feat of Clay

Like Lord Emsworth, of Blandings Castle, Lord Aberconway, 69, (below) is fond of public speaking but not of public speaking. Emsworth shunned the House of Lords and it took Aberconway 27 years to break his silence and speak to his assembled peers. But yesterday Aberconway showed aside the shyness of decades and warned off would-be bidders (RTZ consolidated Gold? Barlow Rand?) impudent enough to make a takeover offer. As chairman of English China Clays whose scars carve up Cornwall, Charles Melville McLaren, Baron Aberconway, yesterday put up a notice to trespassers.

Sniffily, he said: "We think it most unlikely that we would judge any such (takeover) proposition to be of benefit to the business as a whole". Haughtily he added: "We cannot conceive that any other organization could materially add to our technology in the fields of research into clay minerals, not to our expertise in mining and processing those minerals, nor our commercial experience in marketing them."

This disdain has rubbed off on Aberconway's successor as chairman of John Brown, engineers, which fell down on its forecasts after making a cash call not the way to the City's flinty heart. I asked plain Mister John Mayhew-Sanders, 50, would he resign? "No." Would he reinforce his board to relieve his loneliness as the only executive director? "Certainly not. I was put in to pull round this company, and I have."



Eng. Clay's Lord Aberconway

What's inn a name

Restaurants Thérèse and René Rochon have a problem with their London restaurant Chez Solange. From February 11, they want to designate part of it Cinq à Sept, for Paris-style romantic after-work and pre-dinner drinks.

Frown at heel

A call for used footwear to be collected and sent to needy Poles is stinging Nicholas Calvert to put in the boot. Calvert, who is secretary of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, is hopping mad because millions of pairs of Polish shoes are exported to this country each year. Some, he says, are sold at prices which are below the value of the components alone on the British market.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. S. Nunn has been elected chairman of the Institute of London Underwriters. Mr D. Town has been elected deputy chairman. Mr S. L. Finch, who retired last year as deputy chairman of the Weir Group, has accepted an appointment to the board of P. I. Casting Group as chairman-elect to succeed Mr J. F. B. Jackson, whom Mr Jackson retires as chairman in May next.

Rupert Morris

Why Fisons and fertilizers parted company

Fisons and fertilizers have been synonymous in many people's minds for so long that yesterday's announcement of the £50m sale of the company's agricultural fertilizer division to Norwegian firm Norsk-Hydro will come as a shock.

But in spite of Fisons' public denials that such a sale was imminent, it was certainly far from unexpected. Nor is it necessarily a disaster for the British chemical industry or for Fisons itself.

As Mr John Kerridge, chief executive since mid-1980, explained, Fisons has been pursuing a policy of concentrating on the surer profit-making parts of its business, particularly drugs, more or less since he took office. The fertilizer division, which has been only a consistent loss-maker within the group over the past two years, was drastically pruned a year ago when four works were closed with the loss of 1,100 jobs — more than a quarter of the workforce.

The division lost £1.1m in 1980, compared with a profit of £2.9m the year before. Half-year figures for the Fisons group in 1981 showed considerable overall improvement, with a pre-tax loss in the second half of 1980 being turned into a £1.6m profit. But fertilizers were still showing a trading loss.

In retrospect, the severing of its one obviously unhealthy limb makes perfect sense. Fisons had been hard hit by recession, and its credit rating was becoming more pressing. It also seems quite possible that the fertilizer division is now far more attractive than it was.

Said Mr Kerridge: "The significance of this sale as far as we're concerned is that it's a major relief on our balance sheet and enables us to concentrate all our resources on our growth businesses in horticulture, pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment."

"We have found the fertilizer business strategically difficult. It's investment intensive, and the size of the investment needed to develop it is better done by big companies."

A company like ICI, for instance, is already committed to fertilizers through its

chemical plants which produce ammonia. Almost all fertilizers are made from ammonia. ICI has also been pursuing an impressive expansion programme based on profits from its North Sea oil and gas operations.

ICI has bought the second largest Dutch nitrogen producer, NSM, and a majority holding in Sweden's only fertilizer manufacturer, Supra, so that it can claim a monopoly position in both Norwegian and Swedish markets, plus a large share of the Danish market and another significant interest in the Dutch nitrogen market.

Ironically it was only a few days ago that a company spokesman told *European Chemical News*: "We have now reached a level of activity in fertilizers which makes growth in volume no longer a major objective."

The company did, however, say that it anticipates more link-ups and closures in the industry.

Mr Martin Trowbridge, director-general of the Chemical Industries Association, said he saw the move as part of a trend in which manufacturers of fertilizers would find their once specialized products becoming increasingly "international commodities, which major international companies would find much easier to market on a grand scale."

He added: "This also emphasizes the role of the British government in ensuring that our energy related costs are competitive with the best of international competitors."

Fisons' Mr John Kerridge did not see any major threat to British industry as a result of the sale.

But at the very least Norsk-Hydro is unlikely to renew the ammonia contract with ICI. Norsk-Hydro makes its own.

We shall know more about Fisons' precise financial position in a month when its preliminary results for last year are published.

In the meantime, while no substantial contraction of business such as this can be good news, it will undoubtedly ease the company's immediate financial problems, and in due course it is entirely possible that the

rest is taken up by small, geographically concentrated firms.

But besides the strategic reasons for Fisons' getting out of fertilizers, the most immediately important reason was that it needed the money.

Trading profits from its various divisions in 1980 amounted to £16.2m. But finance charges of £12.5m reduced pre-tax profits to £3.7m.

Fisons' particular difficulties and reasons for sale do not, obviously apply to

growth in its other divisions will outweigh the loss of one. As the figures show, Fisons' turnover in fertilizers at £193.6 million in 1980 was almost as much as the rest of the divisions put together.

But growth is an entirely different matter. While the fertilizer business was contracting, the drugs division, with new treatments being introduced for various allergies, has been showing growth of between 20 and 25 per cent, while other sectors have been growing by up to 10 per cent.

Last year's decision to abandon for safety reasons the drug Proxicromil was a serious setback. Fisons was understood to have spent about £12 million on its

development, and it was intended to be an important new asthma treatment similar to Lital.

Pharmaceuticals have, however, remained Fisons' main source of strength, providing £7.3 million out of the £8.3 trading profit made in the first half of 1981.

In spite of the harmful effects of recession and reduced domestic demand, Fisons' agrochemicals division looks reasonably safe thanks to the link with Boots. Its most vulnerable sector would appear to be scientific machinery, exports of which were severely hit in 1981 by the strong pound.

But there is some optimism that last year's redundancies will be the last for a while.

The bold souls in the oil industry who reckon that the oil price could fall as far as \$25 a barrel are still in a minority. A more likely course is that prices will start to firm in the autumn as winter approaches and economic activity begins (perhaps) to pick up again.

But that time is not yet here — despite even one of the most widely quoted forecasts, the world's largest oil consumer, the United States. The downward trend in prices must be beginning to worry the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose revenues are becoming increasingly dependent on the oil tax.

Build-up of those much-vaunted North Sea billions.

Fisons has, of course, been busy knocking the fertilizer division into rather better shape with some radical surgery over the past couple of years, but even though the division is now moving back into profitability, shareholders should have no reservations about the sale.

The prospect of obtaining a significant return of capital through the sale of the division is probably none too bright.

In short then, Fisons has dramatically improved its prospects for the next few



Fisons' chairman, Sir George Buxton, unloads a loss-maker

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Business Editor  
What will Opec do now?

The downward pressure on oil prices shows no sign of abating. If anything, the chances that members of Opec will have to heat an undignified retreat from the price reunification they achieved so triumphantly last autumn are increasing by the day. Both the "spot" market and the increasingly busy oil futures markets in London and the United States are indicating that the Opec \$34-a-barrel benchmark is no longer tenable in the present conditions of world oil glut.

For the first time, cargoes of Saudi crude oil are now trading at a discount of at least 50 cents a barrel to the official \$34 a barrel price, while the disparity for North Sea oil — which had been trading at a discount for several weeks — has widened to more than \$20 a barrel. On the futures market, prices for gas oil are discounting the belief that there will be no recovery in price levels for the next six months.

It is hardly surprising therefore that pressure is mounting on Saudi Arabia, accounting for 40 per cent of Opec's total production, to cut back its output from its current official level of 8.5 million barrels a day. This was certainly one of the major topics at the meeting of the six leading oil producers in the Gulf over the weekend. Many oil industry observers believe that a cut in Saudi production of up to 2 million barrels a day would be the price slide is to be halted. It may have happened already, unannounced.

The alternative is for Opec to try and engineer an across-the-board price cut. But neither option is likely to take the heat off the oil producers for long. There are two main reasons. One is that the Saudi capacity for cutting its output will become extremely limited once it gets down to the 6.5 million barrel a day level.

Any further reduction will have to be at the expense of its ambitious internal development plans. The other reason is that any shortfall in Saudi production is likely to be promptly taken up by the kingdom's fellow Opec members, who have seen their crude sales rapidly eroded by their attempts to charge an above-market price.

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years at a stroke. It has raised the general quality of its earnings and this will doubtless be reflected in a sharp improvement in its current cost earnings too.

Additionally, the sale should allow greater concentration of capital spending in growth areas, while the balance sheet itself will of course look distinctly healthier. At the end of 1981 debt may well have amounted to about 75 per cent of shareholders' funds. During the course of 1982, that figure should come down to around 50 per cent or less.

Even after yesterday's big jump — leaving the shares roughly two-thirds up on last year's "low" — a market capitalization of some £80m may not be fully discounting recovery prospects and the improved earnings quality. Some analysts are looking for a Sun £16m pre-tax for 1982 and appreciably over £20m for 1983.

Printing  
Over-capacity

The immediate crisis in the gravure printing industry may have been alleviated by last week's provisional agreement over redundancy at Reed International's Odhams in Watford. But the three main companies — Odhams, the British Printing Corporation and News International's Benmore — are saddled with such overcapacity that a bloodbath still seems likely.

Cheaper Continental competitors have grabbed much of the mail-order catalogue business. That has left the British printers with a glut of capacity. The industry's overcapacity is estimated at 10 per cent.

The gravure printers are also being pressed from the rival web-offset method. Gravure has reigned supreme in mass-circulation colour printing — runs over about half a million — because it can give reasonable results on far cheaper paper. But recent advances in offset technology are closing the gap.

After a long period of under-investment the firms have recently been investing heavily in high-speed presses and computerized typesetting. However the unions have been very reluctant to shed enough manpower for them to benefit fully.

Industry observers believe that the British market cannot support more than two large gravure printers. Although the most sensible solution would be an agreed merger of the two Watford firms, Sun and Odhams, corporate realities make that unlikely. With three firms together losing more than £10 million a year, the rationalization is more likely to happen when one of them makes unacceptable demands on its workers and clashes down unilaterally.

New York money markets looked pretty sticky in early trading yesterday when the Fed funds rate bounced back up to 15 per cent. It did the same last Monday, of course, before drifting back down by mid-week.

Whether there will be a repeat performance this week remains to be seen, but foreign exchange operators — also looking over their shoulders for any new troubles in Poland — were taking no chances and pushed the dollar up to DM2.35.

Meanwhile, Sterling interest rates held more or less steady, helped by the Bank trimming its dealing rates for all but Band 1 bills.

What was fascinating about the market was whether the Bank was leading rates down or simply flushing out the maximum possible number of bills in the face of a £500m shortage. In short, will it be there on the same terms today?

Selling £100 million worth of air

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING CHANNEL FOUR

By Tom Douglas

Britain's marketing and advertising experts are about to get a taste of their own medicine. The firms who pour millions of pounds into launching new brands and sustaining existing ones will soon find themselves on the receiving end of the biggest new product launch of 1982 — that of the fourth television channel.

Channel Four goes on the air in exactly nine months' time and the battle, to persuade advertisers to book commercials on it is just beginning. The first rate cards have started to appear, the channel has appointed an advertising agency, and next week Channel Four's chief executive, Jeremy Isaacs, and managing director, Justin Dukes, begin a nationwide series of presentations to advertisers and agencies at which they will reveal many of their plans for the channel, including the first outline programme schedule.

On the surface, Isaacs and Dukes' task should not be an unduly difficult one. For commercial television has been enjoying an unprecedented advertising boom in spite of the recession. Last year, ITV's net revenue leapt by 15 per cent to £611 million, thereby illustrating most advertisers' reluctance to take their business away from television despite its high cost.

Channel Four, which will increase the supply of airtime by some 50 per cent, seems certain to benefit, but it has other attractions for the advertiser as well. With its smaller, but more tightly defined audiences — Isaacs says he is aiming for 10 per cent of the total viewing hours — Channel Four should be able to attract advertisers who currently cannot afford the capital cost of a television campaign and are using the colour supplements or other media instead.

In addition, because its programming will be complementary to that on ITV — with news opposite comedy, films opposite sport and so on — it is likely to increase the total audience to commercial television. It is also expected to attract groups who do not generally watch ITV, such as businessmen and young people.



Justin Dukes, managing director and Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of Channel Four: aiming for 10 per cent of viewing hours

drawbacks for Isaacs and Dukes, however, as they start their crusade next week, not least of which is the fact that they do not have anything to sell. All the airtime on the new channel will be sold by the existing independent television companies at present, is expected to grow rapidly when a head of marketing is appointed in a few months' time.

Justin Dukes, who as deputy chief executive and managing director of Channel Four is in charge of the business side of the operation, accepts that it is important that there should be "no disharmony in the way the channel is presented". He and Isaacs at one time hoped a central sales force could be set up, alongside those of the regional ITV contractors, to sell advertising on Channel Four on a national basis.

Since the programmes would be the same all over the country, but that battle had been fought and lost many months previously, in Parliament and outside, by the advertisers and agencies who wanted the existing ITV companies to have no part in the selling of the channel at all.

Dukes, who was joint marketing director of the Financial Times until taking up his new post last May, has

one for every ITV region — each with a different sales plan and pricing policy and each visiting the same advertisers and agencies. And that is not, including Channel Four's own marketing department, which, though embryonic at present, is expected to grow rapidly when a head of marketing is appointed in a few months' time.

The contractors do not agree, though three of them have announced their intention of providing a halfway house for new advertisers by offering a joint rate covering the south east of England. The three companies, London Weekend Television, TVS and Anglia, intend to offer a package of 40 commercial spots on all three stations for £140,000, up to 30 per cent of which they will give back to the advertiser in order to make his commercial.

Ostensibly, the idea behind the scheme is to attract new advertisers who might be worried that the cost of producing their television commercial would be excessive in view of the comparatively low cost of the airtime. "We realize that the cost of producing commercials will be a problem," says Ron Miller, sales director of London Weekend, "which is why we have got together to do something about it."

However, some observers, and not just rival ITV companies, see the move simply as a way of attracting business to the three contractors concerned, at the ex-

pense of contractors in other parts of the country. Significantly, the joint ratecard has yet to be lodged with the Office of Fair Trading, though the three companies say they believe there will be no difficulties on that score. Other contractors, one of which has suggested the proposal could lead to the "Balkanization" of Channel Four, are not so sure.

If the marketing of the channel to the advertising business seems unduly complicated, however, even to marketing men, at least its promotion to the public is relatively straightforward. Channel Four has appointed one of London's most highly regarded advertising agencies, Boase Massim Pollit, and has earmarked £2 million for the launch, the bulk of which will be spent in the immediate pre-launch period.

Unlike previous television channels and unlike new newspapers or magazines, Channel Four does not have to persuade people to buy a new set or a new aerial or the publication itself. All it has to do is to get people to press the spare button on their set. Ultimately, however, it will be the quality of the programming that will determine whether or not Channel Four meets its audience targets and, as a result, attracts sufficient advertising revenue to pay its way. By the beginning of November, there will be no one in the country left unaware of the launch of the new television channel, but if it does not screen programmes that sufficient people want to watch, it will go the same way as the vast majority of other new products launched each year: it will fail.

● *Torin Douglas will write a marketing and advertising column every Tuesday*

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crd.	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Grass	Yld	P/E	Div	Actual	Tax
123	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	122	-1	10.0	8.2	-	-	-	-
75	62	Airprung Group	70	+1	4.7	6.8	11.0	15.4	-	-
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	-	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5	-	-
205	187	Barton Hill	205	-	9.7	4.7	10.0	12.1	-	-
104	80	Deborah Services	80	-1	6.0	7.5	4.0	7.5	-	-
130	78	Frank Horrell	129	-1	5.4	5.0	11.6	23.9	-	-
78	39	Frederick Parker	78	-	1.7	2.2	33.9	-	-	-
78	46	George Blair	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
102	93	IPC	95	+1	7.2	7.7	6.8	-	-	-
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	-	15.7	15.0	-	-	-	-
113	95	Jackson Group	95	-	7.0	7.7	3.0	6.7	-	-
130	108	James Burroughs	113	-	8.7	7.7	8.0	10.8	-	-
334	250	Robert Jenkins	250	-2	31.3	12.5	3.5	10.4	-	-
59	51	Scruttons "A"	55	-1	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9	-	-
222	184	Torday & Carlisle	166	-1	10.7	6.4	5.3	9.9	-	-
15	10	Twinkl Ord	13 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	76	+1	15.0	19.7	-	-	-	-
44	27	Wallack Holdings	27	-	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2	-	-
182	75	Water Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7	-	-
263	212	W. S. Yeates	218	-	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	-	-

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146



## Stock Exchange Prices

# Profit taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. <sup>5</sup> Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

[illegible]











# Sotheby's

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## De Lorean blames sales fall

Continued from page one

valuable records. "We are still suffering from inefficiencies because of that. We were deterred by not having second copies but we were going so fast we did not have the people to duplicate these things. It was a serious blow. It cost us an almost incalculable amount of money."

He said the car had tremendous consumer acceptance. "In November we had firm, legally enforceable, dealer orders for about 5,000 cars for the following quarter. We felt cool, calm and confident that everything was wonderful."

But then the sale of new cars dropped sharply. "Annual sales fell from 8.3 million units in November to six million in December and under six million in January. Suddenly the industry went into the ash can."

"With these firm orders we set our production schedule and started to deliver. We have never been adequately capitalized. The financial always worked on the basis that as fast as we build a car we have to sell it."

"In the meantime dealers suddenly told us that with the marketing slowdown they could not take the cars."

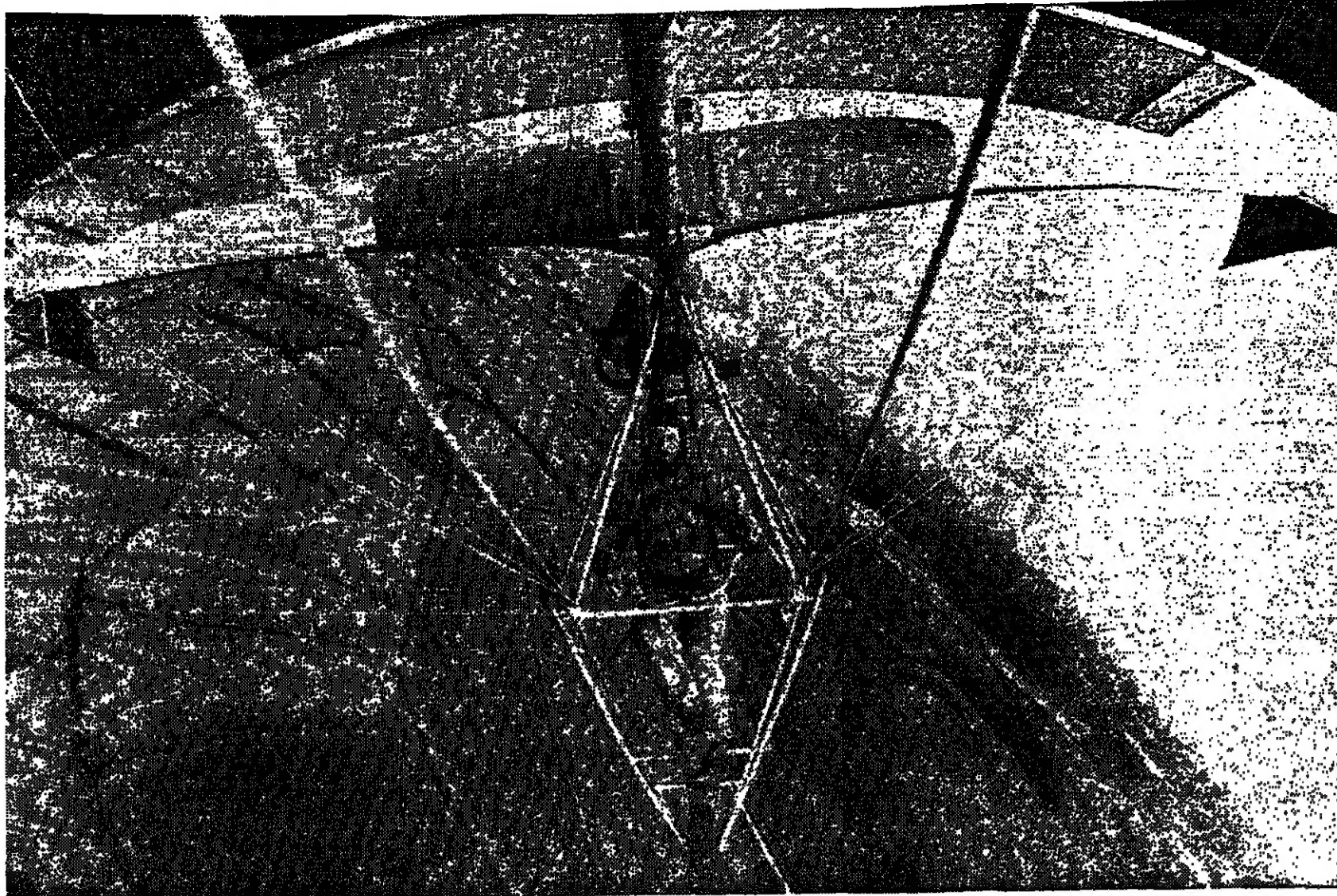
Everybody was questioning the company's financial viability but the car was close to the quality of any car built in the world. "The worst is behind us and we need to re-establish the financial credibility of the company."

There had been misunderstandings about his personal interests. Three times he had offered to give his shares back to the Government.

The company's assets were on the balance sheet at £35m. "That is not a sick, insolvent company. It is important that if people are well on the balance sheet at £35m, the taxpayers' money they should not criticise statements that are detrimental to our continued existence."

He still hoped that a private investor would emerge to purchase or merge the company. "We are looking hard for one, for a totally non-government company so that we can fulfil the market potential. We are still selling the car, even with this terrible publicity, at the rate of 10,000 to 12,000 cars a year."

"That is more than enough to sustain the workforce we have now. With a little bit of favourable publicity there is no question in my mind that we could be employing 2,700 people again by the spring." The company had made \$5.7m profit in the quarter ended August 31 last year and \$4m in the quarter to November 30.



Mr Ian Stokes gets to grip with the controls of an Eagle microlight aircraft over Davidstone airfield near Bodmin Moor, Cornwall.

## High flying in the bargain basement

By Ronald Faux

Private flying in Britain, depressed by high fuel costs and competition from American flying schools, could be helped by the revolution that has begun in lightweight aviation.

The Civil Aviation Authority has drawn up its proposals for the operation of microlight aircraft which leave the day-to-day running of the sport to the pilots and allow the trainees to count their hours spent in the cheap microlights towards their training for a conventional private pilot's licence. The saving in the cost of a licence could amount to more than £1,000.

Several flying schools plan to introduce the option of training on microlight aircraft as a means of bringing private flying closer to the average pocket.

Microlights are the breed of aircraft that developed from the United States space programme and range from powered hang gliders to new types of rigid-wing lightweight

planes that offer exciting flying for a fraction of the normal cost.

The development is welcomed by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association and by many flying schools in Britain.

The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA), the governing body of the sport, is reassured that the Civil Aviation Authority seems prepared to regulate with a soft touch and hopes to delegate responsibility for training, safety and ensuring that the small aircraft are airworthy, largely to the BMAA.

It calculates that with all the new regulations in force, flying microlight should cost no more than £6 an hour compared with at least £40 an hour to train on a conventional aircraft, which microlight pilots are apt to refer to as "spam cans".

But because of the crowded airspace over Britain, with a plethora of controlled zones, air corridors and areas used by low flying military aircraft,

conventional aircraft for seven or eight hours. "If we have any doubts about the person wanting to buy one of our aircraft, we keep the propeller until we are absolutely sure that he is safe", an instructor said. The new regulations that come fully into operation this year will move this responsibility largely to the BMAA.

The association's membership has risen from 400 to 1,800 in a year and the expectation is that in three years' time 5,000 pilots will be qualified or under training.

Pilot magazine, which covers business and pleasure flying, recently surveyed the microlight scene and pointed to the sharp improvements that have been made in strength, reliability and lower noise levels. "No longer can the BMAA be a bunch of oil-stained cloth muggers with flies stuck in their teeth", Pilot declared.

There have been accidents. Three pilots have died flying the machines in the past three years, one because it is thought he overspooled the machine and the others because the aircraft took off incorrectly. The microlight pilot sits strapped to his seat with the elements rushing past him; exhilarating on a fine day but impossible in cold, wind or cloud. The sport will be governed as much by the weather as the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Ron Bort, secretary of the BMAA, claimed that the success rate in training spoke for itself. "They are slow-flying machines which means that if they crash the pilot can normally walk away. The people who take up the sport are generally hang glider pilots, holders of expired private pilot's licences who cannot afford to fly on normal aircraft and people who simply take to the air because they have had a frustrated urge to fly. The spirits of Icarus and Biggles are alive and well it seems, and airborn in microlights."

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

## Lawson missile fails to vaporise Benn

Britain's nuclear power programme was the subject of the main debate yesterday.

In the opening speech, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of Energy and reportedly one of the Cabinet favourites, used a nuclear weapon on Mr Tony Benn, who was in a hard-edged site on the Labour backbenches. Mr Benn survived.

As all those right-wing apologists for civil defence had always predicted, if Lawson were ever used many citizens would still survive.

Not that Mr Lawson would accept that he had done anything other than take on Mr Benn as a major nuclear power. But politicians never agree as to whether, in an argument, they have been blown to bits. Mr Benn went on to make a confident speech.

The weapons system which Mr Lawson deployed was a quotation from one of Mr Benn's speeches as Secretary for Energy in 1978. Mr Benn had put in a good word for the PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor).

Since then, hysteria about even the peaceful use of nuclear power has become a recreation of the Higher Education left. So Mr Benn has changed his attitude and become much more critical of the PWR. He has to follow the polytechnic masses, for he is their leader.

At least, this is no doubt how Mr Lawson sees Mr Benn's move. Mr Benn sees the change as part of science's never-ending quest for knowledge.

"One reason why this very important subject is not debated more frequently is that, despite all the controversy which surrounds it, there exists within the House a wide measure of agreement," Mr Lawson said. That was his countdown.

Mr Lawson added that, "for example", it was his predecessor as Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Member for Bristol, SE, who had something to say on the subject in 1978.

Whereupon, he quoted Mr Benn as having said that "we must develop the option of adopting the PWR system in the early 1980s" and that the electricity supply industry's intention of ordering a PWR station "is endorsed by the Government".

Amid this blast, Mr Benn sat on the backbench. With sublime courage, he continued to take notes, his eyes

never meeting Mr Lawson's. "Hansard, January 25, 1978," the present Secretary of State explained. "I welcome this manifestation of consensus politics," he added. This final cloud of ironic fallout enveloped Mr Benn to no apparent effect. He continued remorselessly at the notes.

Mr Lawson went on to celebrate the efficiency and safety of nuclear power, with much mention of kilowatts and electricity and similar matters which the buffons had stuffed in his head. He sat down again.

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Shadow Secretary of Energy, rose to give the official policy of the Labour Party on the subject. Mr Rees was just the man to make this clear—that is, to make it opaque. He tends to end sentences so long that they make Gibbon sound like the leader column of the Daily Express. Sometimes the sentences are never finished. Sometimes they are finished, but the end, turns around and greets itself on the way back.

Sometimes Mr Rees appears to be one of his own cleverest. None of these seems to have any effect on his quality as a politician. He is rather able. Certainly, he was a perfectly satisfactory minister. His career is living proof of the puffed-up claims of mere, metricious eloquence.

Mr Rees embroiled himself in his speech for half an hour without any of us understanding a word of his true beliefs about these dark subjects. For a Labour Energy spokesman, with the interests of coalminers and the passions of the left to satisfy, nuclear policy is too serious a matter to be left to clarity.

Finally, Mr Benn, in eloquent speech would have delighted the polytechnic left, who seem to regard the Pressurised Water Reactor as being as warlike as Polaris, as well as the miners who prefer to be pressurised with cash rather than with water.

"The Secretary of State quite fairly referred to my speech of 1978," he casually observed in parenthesis. But then was when the clouds parted. New information became available at last.

Which was just as well since that was the year Labour went into Opposition.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales opens new gallery at Crafts Council, 12 Waterloo Place, SW1, 11.30. The Prince of Wales attends dinner at 11 Downing Street in connection with British Film Institute, 1.15. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens Canada House Cultural Centre, 6.45.

Princess Michael of Kent opens exhibition of paintings, sculpture and crafts, Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1, 11.30.

Exhibitions: Paintings of the sea and coast, Hove Museum of Art, 19 New Church Road, Hove, 10 to 1 and 2 to 5. Aberdeen Artists' Society Annual Exhibition, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5. A Glimpse of the Past—local

views from old photographs, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, 10 to 5.

Panels and plastic jewelry, Arncliffe, Narrow Quay, Bristol, 11 to 8. Old Master drawings by Willem van de Velde the Elder and Younger, Sotheby's, 42 Holden Road, Bournemouth, 10 to 4.30. Music: Haydn's "The Creation", Northern Sinfonia of England, Town Hall, Middlesbrough, 7.45.

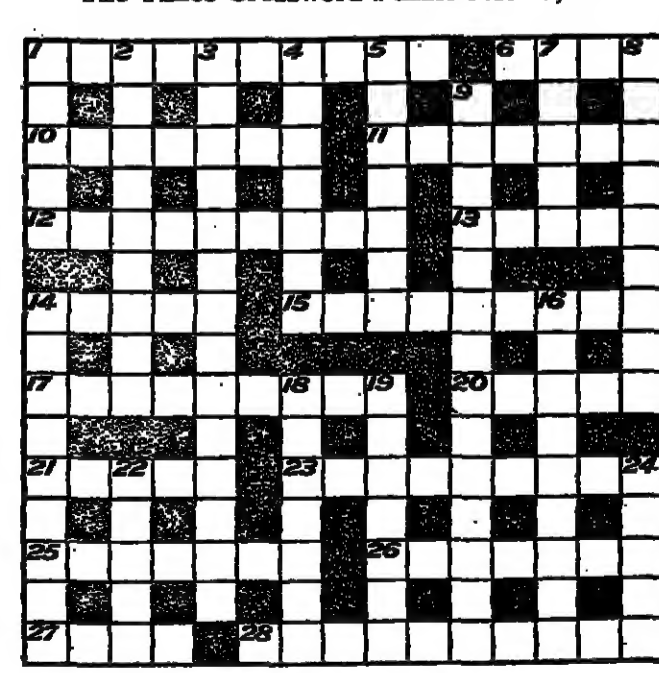
### Auctions

Christie's, South Kensington: Old and modern jewelry, costumes, linen, lace and furs, 2. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Furniture, carpets, works of art, 11.15. Sotheby's, Bond Street: English porcelain, 10.30.

Viewing: Bonhams, Montpelier Street: European oil paintings, 9 to 7; English and Continental furniture, 9 to 7; silver and glass, 5.30 to 7. Christie's, King Street: Eastern textiles, rugs and carpets; scientific instruments, clocks and watches; 18th and 19th century Continental pictures, 9.15 to 4.45. Christie's, South Kensington: Old and modern jewelry, costumes, linen, lace and furs, both 9 to 12. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Clocks 12.45 to 1.30; watches, 9 to 1; scientific instruments; English and Continental ceramics and glass; specialized Great Britain stamps; silver and gold boxes, all 9 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street: British pictures; modern British pictures; carpets; works of art; modern prints, all 9.30 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Furniture, 5.30 to 4.30.

Henceforth words joined by elision will be cited as one word. Thus "Bob's your uncle" (4,4,5), instead of (3,1,4,5).

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,745



Henceforth words joined by elision will be cited as one word. Thus "Bob's your uncle" (4,4,5), instead of (3,1,4,5).

#### ACROSS

- 1 Fringe benefit for retired salesman is quite extraordinary (10).
- 2 The Boy Friend heard in East London (4).
- 3 Object to sort of mice found locally (7).
- 4 Hung around with low church journalists (7).
- 5 Main list shows silly asses about equal (5,4).
- 6 Johnson's papers indicate more unemployment (5).
- 7 Sadly, I've no last words to the dedicatee (5).
- 8 One living abroad has no right to speak freely (9).
- 9 Misplaced nervousness I find absurd (9).
- 10 Penetrate part of forbidden territory (5).
- 11 Advertisement for a jacket (5).
- 12 In reading anarchy is deep-rooted (9).
- 13 With which to coat the joints of pot? (7).
- 14 Name of travellers in the van (7).
- 15 Area of land once used by a bird-watcher (4).
- 16 Book-peddler (or song-writer with a French accent?) (10).

#### Solution of Puzzle No. 15,744

ACROSS: 1. BIRD-WATCHER; 2. BOY-FRIEND; 3. OBJECT; 4. HUNG; 5. MAIN; 6. JOHNSON; 7. SADLY; 8. ONE; 9. MISPLACED; 10. PENETRATE; 11. ADVERTISEMENT; 12. ANARCHY; 13. WITH; 14. NAME; 15. AREA; 16. BOOK-PEDDLER.

### Sporting fixtures

Football: League Cup semi-final, first leg, Ipswich v. Liverpool, 7.30. 15 English and Scottish League matches (see page 17). Racing: Sedgemoor, 1.15; Leicester, 1.30.

#### Sport on TV

BBC2: 5.55. World Skiing Championships: Men's Combined Slalom 9. Pot Black 82—smoker.

#### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Coal Industry Bill, second reading. New Towns Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Corcoran Bill, remaining stages. Social Security (Contributions) Bill, remaining stages. Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, committee, fourth day.

#### Anniversaries

Births: Nell Gwynn, London, 1650; Charles Talleyrand, Paris, 1754; Havelock Ellis, Croydon, 1852; James Joyce, Dublin, 1882; Palestine died in Rome, 1934. George III opened first session of the first Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801.

Printed and published by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-25571. Tuesday, February 2, 1982.

### Travel today

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—call 01-246-8030; text: 01-246-8031; fax: 01-246-8032; air: 01-246-8033.

#### Rail

Because of a second landslide at Barkston, Lincolnshire, main line services to and from Edinburgh are closed tonight. Passengers should aim to reach destinations by 10 pm. No overnight trains. For times of last trains, call station inquiries, or Traveline (see above).

#### Roads

Midlands and E Anglia: A40: Only one lane open at St Oswalds Road, Gloucester. A5: Widened at Kibsey and Cowditch, Gloucestershire. A23: Road works at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

North: M18-A166: Only one lane open at Humberstone, Leicestershire. A64: Road works at Bramford, Cambridgeshire.

Wales and West: A30: Temporary lights at Fenny Bridges between Honiton and Exeter. A4: Widened at Exeter. A4: Widened at Exeter. A4: Widened at Exeter.

Scotland: A619: Road works N of Inveraray. A742: Temporary lights at Glasgow. A742: Temporary lights at Glasgow.

Information supplied by the A.A.

#### Sea

Because of Sealink dispute, no Newhaven/Dieppe ferries operating. For special coaches to ports during rail disruption, call 01-828 4142 or 01-834 2345, or Sealink offices at ports.

Ferry services to and from Guernsey now back to normal after recent dispute.

Air services to and from Guernsey now back to normal after recent dispute.

Possible delays to passengers at Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports in Paris because of customs workers' work-to-rule.

#### The papers

In a sharp attack on a government decision to close a research unit pioneering a treatment for pernicious anaemia at a saving of £30,000 per year, the Daily Mirror says "We are preparing to spend thousands of millions on unnecessary nuclear weapons to destroy life but refusing to spend peanuts on saving it... If the mark of a civilized society is the way in which it cares for the sick, then we have a government of barbarians".

The Morning Telegraph, Sheffield, says the Allies are unlikely to agree on a common policy as long as American grain exports to Russia continue, and the Washington Post asks why this is not yet clear to the Reagan administration.

### TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 24:

- 1 The Two Ronnies
- 2 Jim'll Fix It
- 3 Last of the Summer Wine
- 4 Dallas
- 5 Hunters are for Killing
- 6 Police
- 7 Holiday
- 8 Shoestring
- 9 Mandy
- 10 Terry and June

BBC 2

- 1 Pot Black 82
- 2 Grace Kennedy
- 3 Arena
- 4 The Bell (Wed & Sun)
- 5 Australian Film Season
- 6 Porridge
- 7 The Waltons
- 8 M\*A\*S\*H
- 9 Three of a Kind
- 10 Australian Film Season

ITV

- 1 This is Your Life (Thames)
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) (Granada)
- 3 Coronation Street (Mon)
- 4 Family Fortunes (Central)
- 5 London Night Out (Thames)
- 6 Wish You Were Here (Thames)
- 7 Let There Be Love (Thames)
- 8 Play Your Cards Right (LWT)
- 9 The Professionals (ITV)
- 10 The Gentle Touch (LWT)

British Audience Research Board

Classical best sellers

Best-selling records last week were: 1. Pachelbel's Duetto (CBS 3352); 2. Domingo (CBS 3352); 3. E. Strauss: Alpine Symphony (Decca DSLO 494); 4. Galea (Decca DSLO 494); 5. Monteverdi: Sacred Music (Decca DSLO 494); 6. Goodman (Hyperion A6021); 7. Pachelbel's Duetto (CBS 3352); 8. Galea (Decca DSLO 494); 9. Monteverdi: Sacred Music (Decca DSLO 494); 10. Goodman (Hyperion A6021).

The pound

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.77	1.69	
Belgium Fr	32.15	30.15	
Canada \$	85.00	81.00	
Denmark Kr	14.85	14.25	
Finland Mk	8.73	8.28	
France Fr	11.55	10.95	
Germany DM	4.55	4.30	
Greece Dr	124.00	115.00	
Hong Kong \$	11.30	10.70	
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.23	
Italy Lit	2425.00	2335.00	
Japan Yn	468.00	452.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.98	4.72	
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94	
Portugal Esc	133.00	125.00	
South Africa R	2.02	1.87	
Spain Ptas	165.00	158.00	
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.54	
Switzerland Fr	3.64	3.42	
USA \$	1.25	1.18	
Yugoslavia Dnr	105.00	95.00	

Notes: All small denominations bank notes only. All quoted securities are subject to market fluctuations. All rates are for 100 units of foreign currency.

### Weather

Mild S airstream will persist over British Isles as frontal troughs clear northwards from N Ireland and Scotland.

#### 6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, E Anglia, Channel Islands, S Wales, S Ireland: some sunny intervals, wind S, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 44F). Central S, SW England: Cloudy, occasional drizzle on hills, wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). Midlands, Central W, NE England: Mainly dry, rather cloudy, some brighter intervals; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mainly dry, light rain or drizzle in places, wind mainly light, increasing moderate or fresh; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Mainly cloudy, light rain or drizzle in places, wind mainly light, increasing moderate or fresh; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). SE Scotland, Dundee, Perth, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Becoming mainly dry, perhaps some drizzle in places, wind mainly light, increasing moderate or fresh; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, chiefly in W.

SEA PASSENGERS: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S, light or moderate, increasing fresh later; sea slight, becoming moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea, W, S moderate or fresh, increasing strong or gale later; sea moderate increasing rough or very rough.

Sea states: 1-3 m; 4-6 m; 7-9 m; 10-12 m; 13-15 m; 16-18 m; 19-21 m; 22-24 m; 25-27 m; 28-30 m; 31-33 m; 34-36 m; 37-39 m; 40-42 m; 43-45 m; 46-48 m; 49-51 m; 52-54 m; 55-57 m; 58-60 m; 61-63 m; 64-66 m; 67-69 m; 70-72 m; 73-75 m; 76-78 m; 79-81 m; 82-84 m; 85-87 m; 88-90 m; 91-93 m; 94-96 m; 97-99 m; 100-102 m; 103-105 m; 106-108 m; 109-111 m; 112-114 m; 115-117 m; 118-120 m; 121-123 m; 124-126 m; 127-129 m; 130-132 m; 133-135 m; 136-138 m; 139-141 m; 142-144 m; 145-147 m; 148-150 m; 151-153 m; 154-156 m; 157-159 m; 160-162 m; 163-165 m; 166-168 m; 169-171 m; 172-174 m; 175-177 m; 178-180 m; 181-183 m; 184-186 m; 187-189 m; 190-192 m; 193-195 m; 196-198 m; 199-201 m; 202-204 m; 205-207 m; 208-210 m; 211-213 m; 214-216 m; 217-219 m; 220-222 m; 223-225 m; 226-228 m; 229-231 m; 232-234 m; 235-237 m; 238-240 m; 241-243 m; 244-246 m; 247-249 m; 250-252 m; 253-255 m; 256-258 m; 259-261 m; 262-264 m; 265-267 m; 268-270 m; 271-273 m; 274-276 m; 277-279 m; 280-282 m; 283-285 m; 286-288 m; 289-291 m; 292-294 m; 295-297 m; 298-300 m; 301-303 m; 304-306 m; 307-309 m; 310-312 m; 313-315 m; 316-318 m; 319-321 m; 322-324 m; 325-327 m; 328-330 m; 331-333 m; 334-336 m; 337-339 m; 340-342 m; 343-345 m; 346-348 m; 349-351 m; 352-354 m; 355-357 m; 358-360 m; 361-363 m; 364-366 m; 367-369 m; 370-372 m; 373-375 m; 376-378 m; 379-381 m; 382-384 m; 385-387 m; 388-390 m; 391-393 m; 394-396 m; 397-399 m; 400-402 m; 403-405 m; 406-408 m; 409-411 m; 412-414 m; 415-417 m; 418-420 m; 421-423 m; 424-426 m; 427-429 m; 430-432 m; 433-435 m; 436-438 m; 439-441 m; 442-444 m; 445-447 m; 448-450 m; 451-453 m; 454-456 m; 457-459 m; 460-462 m; 463-465 m; 466-468 m; 469-471 m; 472-474 m; 475-477 m; 478-480 m; 481-483 m; 484-486 m; 487-489 m; 490-492 m; 493-495 m; 496-498 m; 499-501 m; 502-504 m; 505-507 m; 508-510 m; 511-513 m; 514-516 m; 517-519 m; 520-522 m; 523-525 m; 526-528 m; 529-531 m; 532-534 m; 535-537 m; 538-540 m; 541-543 m; 544-546 m; 547-549 m; 550-552 m; 553-555 m; 556-558 m; 559-561 m; 562-564 m; 565-567 m; 568-570 m; 571-573 m; 574-576 m; 577-579 m; 580-582 m; 583-585 m; 586-588 m; 589-591 m; 592-594 m; 595-597 m; 598-600 m; 601-603 m; 604-606 m; 607-609 m; 610-612 m; 613-615 m; 616-618 m; 619-621 m; 622-624 m; 625-627 m; 628-630 m; 631-633 m; 634-636 m; 637